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The Spectator

"Older than the New York Times"

Volume XXXXIV Number 14

MLK Dinner held to honor fallen Civil Rights leader

by Becky Ramsey '07
NEWS WRITER

Minister. Activist. Educator. Pacificist. Many labels have been given to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Since his death in 1968, many have tried to characterize exactly what kind of legacy Dr. King life and work have left for the United States and for the world. Many saw King as an activist for black rights in the South during the mid-twentieth century; others saw him as a man fighting for human rights in the entire world for all time.

PHOTO BY LETTY BEDARD '06

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty David Paris was one of many speakers at Monday evening's dinner in honor of Dr. King.

A dinner was held on Monday in the Annex in honor of the national holiday commemorating King's life and death. In coordinating this event and its program of music, speeches, and small discussion groups, Assistant Dean of Students for Multicultural Affairs Marc David sought to honor all of King's many legacies. He explained that a celebration of King should include three different aspects: tribute, education, and community service.

"I hoped to fulfill the first two [tribute and education] through Monday's dinner. The last [service], we hope to fulfill through the MLK Community Service Project," David said.

Some in the Hamilton community have questioned whether classes should be conducted on Martin Luther King Day.

"It's a complicated question," said Chaplain Jeff McArn. "If we did not hold classes, would students come back for the holiday? If students were not here, would it make sense for the College to acknowledge the holiday in ways other than offering employees time off like we do on

see MLK, page 2

Ralph Nader headlines spring Levitt Series

by Kathleen McGrory '05
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hamilton College will welcome Ralph Nader to campus next month as part of this spring's Levitt Center Series: "The Eenvironment: Public Policy and Social Responsibility." Nader will deliver his lecture entitled "Politics and the Environment: Winners and Losers" on Tuesday, February 10, in the College Chapel.

"I was looking for a speaker who has had a major impact on environmental issues. There aren't many people who have had a greater impact than Ralph Nader," said Paul Hagstrom, associate professor of economics and director of the Levitt Center.

James S. Sherman Associate Professor of Government Philip Klinkner agreed. "Ralph Nader has been in the public eye for over forty years. We lead different lives as a result of many of the things he's done," said Klinker. "From traffic safety legislation to the idea of public watchdogs over government and corporations, if you had to name one person in politics who has had an effect on people, it's him."

Most famous for his run for the presidency in 2000 as a third party candidate, Nader is also noted for his work in the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Further, Nader was instrumental in helping to draft the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Air and Water Pollution Control Laws.

Hagrstrom hopes students will learn from Nader's example. "Ralph Nader has shown that individuals can have an impact on public policy by founding grassroots fundations. He has helped the individual learn that he can stand up to the big guy - corporations and government," he said.

Students are predicting a large turnout at the lecture.

"Hamilton isn't that politically active," noted Caroline O'Shea '07, "though for a politician this famous, I really think that people will come out. He is definitely an important figure in America, as evidenced by the 2000 election." O'Shea is a member of the Hamilton College Democrats.

Hagstrom believes Nader's visit will create controversey on the Hill. "I hope that some students are excited. I hope that some students are angered. The whole point of the series is not to bring speakers that please people, but to bring speakers that get people talking."

Talking is just what students are doing.

see Levitt, page 2

Associate professors of government promoted to full professors

by Lindsay Sorin '07
NEWS WRITER

Hamilton College has recognized the scholarship and commitment to teaching by two government department associate professors. Steve Orvis and Carol Drogus have been promoted to full professor positions. As full professors, both Orvis and Drogus will enjoy the benefits of tenure, as well as greater flexibility in developing courses that they believe will both interest and benefit Hamilton students. Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty David Paris announced the promotions in a January 13th memorandum to the entire College community.

Orvis received a doctorate in comparitive politics, with an emphasis on African politics, from the University of Wisconsin. In the memorandum announcing the promotions, Paris described Orvis as "the archetype of a liberal arts professor and ... a respected scholar in the field of economic and political development in Africa."

Orvis has written articles that have been published by *African Studies Review*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, and *Journal of Asian and African Studies*. Orvis also has had a book published about his studies in Africa, more specifically in Kenya, entitled *The Agrarian Question in Kenya*. Orvis served as an international election observer in Kenya's transitional elections to democratic rule.

Paris's announcement conveyed a sense that Orvis is an important member of the Hamilton community in addition to being a respected member of his field. He served for two years as chair of the Committee on Academic Policy and led students on a three week field school excursion to Kenya in the summer of 2000. Orvis has been a member of the Hamilton College faculty for fifteen years and is looking forward to spending the rest of his career at Hamilton.

Like Orvis, Drogus holds a doctorate in comparative politics from the University of Wisconsin. She specializes in the study of Latin American politics, with particular emphasis on that of Brazil.

Drogus is a prolific writer of articles that have been published in *Comparative Politics*, *Southeastern Political Review*, *Archives de Sciences Sociales des Religions* (France), *Der uberblick* (Germany), and *Tempo e Presenca* (Brazil). Additionally, she has edited such volumes as *Conflict and Competition: The Latin American Church in the 1990s* (1992), *Power, Politics, and Pentecostals in Latin America* (1997), and *The Progressive Catholic Church as a*

see Pair, page 4

Bon Appétit: College beef poses no threat in wake of Mad Cow scare

by Ian Mandel '06
NEWS EDITOR

Bon Appétit, Hamilton College's food service provider, maintains that the diagnosis of the first American case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as Mad Cow Disease, poses no threat to those consuming beef products in College dining facilities.

Nationwide concern over the safety of American beef has surfaced in the wake of the December 23rd announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that a cow from a farm in Mabton, Washington tested positive for the disease.

Hamilton College Executive Chef Reuben Haag was confident that there are no adverse health risks from eating beef on the Hill.

"In fact, in the near future it could be safer because so much attention has been drawn to the subject," Haag said.

Haag was not particularly surprised that BSE was finally discovered in the United States. "It was bound to happen at some point," he said. "You can control, but you can't guarantee that there is no possibility."

Hamilton College receives most of its beef from Albany based U.S. Foods, which contracts three suppliers: Swift & Company, based in Colorado; Harvest Meat Company, based in Kansas; and Tyson Foods, Inc., based in Arizona.

In a letter written on December 24th to customers, Kevin Leavy, president of Harvest Meat Company, explained, "It is important that we keep things in perspective. One case of BSE does not make for a crisis in our industry. We have by far the safest

see Bon Appétit, page 3

AP

Concerns about Mad Cow Disease have also been raised in Japan.

2004 MLK Dinner features speakers, music and discussion

from MLK, page 1

other federal holidays?"

"We could always do more," David said, "but I am happy with what we have done."

Tributes to King included speeches by President Joan Hinde Stewart, members of Sophomore Seminar 285, which studied the time period, and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty David Paris; singing of the hymn *Lift Every Voice and Sing*; and musical selections by the Doc Woods Quintet. Woods specially composed a piece for the event, *Blue Collar Daddy*, which he explained was in honor of his father, King, and the importance both men placed on their roles as fathers.

"It has nothing to do with color," Woods said. "It has everything to do with being there for your family."

Following the initial presentations, those attending broke into groups for dinner and discussion of various topics relating to King's legacy and to the era he did so much to influence.

A variety of discussion topics were available to students and to faculty if they signed up in advance. These topics included King's involvement in the Anti-War movement, his vision and subsequent changes in education, his religious convictions, his use of civil rights and nonviolence, and a comparison with Gandhi.

"I appreciated the opportunity to talk with others about King's speeches, the role of mass media in the civil rights struggle, and the honorable way in which Martin Luther King made his choices," said Professor Catherine Kaha, leader of a table entitled "Martin Luther King: The man and his message."

Some discussions became debates over the best way to achieve a reality for King's dream.

"The critical aspect of the discussion was the sharing and receiving of ideas within a diverse group of people who have had remarkably different upbringings," said John Adams '06. "Each person seemed to have seen the effects of bias, discrimination and segregation from different angles."

All seemed to value this time of discussion about an issue that still has repercussions for the U.S. at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

McArn pointed out that while overt racism has largely disappeared from the laws and much of American society, attitudes, even subconscious ones, are still a troubling problem today.

"If Dr. King were still with us, I daresay he would call on the same method to combat this subtler, more interior racism, that he relied upon during his struggle against overt racism: the philosophy of love," McArn said.

Indeed, the night before he died, King preached a sermon about his resolution in the fight he had undertaken for equal civil rights.

"I am happy tonight," he said. "I'm not fearing any man." His legacy continues to provide examples for many other civil rights efforts still in the U.S. and throughout the world.

King said in his acceptance of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964, "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."

Beef Suppliers insist Hamilton meat is safe

from Bon Appétit, page 1

food supply and most comprehensive food inspection system in the world."

Leavy's letter does not directly address whether Harvest Meat purchases beef from the plants under investigation. Tyson and Swift & Company, on the other hand, both released statements directly addressing this point.

"We have confirmed no product from any of the three Washington plants identified by the USDA has been purchased by Tyson Foods' facilities or used in any products manufactured by Tyson Foods," the Tyson statement established.

Swift & Company made a similar assertion: "Swift & Company does not purchase any meat from the vendors in question."

Swift & Company did state, however, that the corporation has "identified and isolated any cattle in our production system that have been sourced from the State of Washington."

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), BSE was first reported in the United Kingdom (UK) in 1986. The origins of the disease in British cattle is unconfirmed, but is presumed to be from feed contaminated with scrapie-infected sheep meat-and-bone meal. Scientists believe the disease was spread in the UK by feeding BSE-contaminated cattle protein to calves.

The human disease Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD) is similar to BSE and a variant form of the disease, vCJD, is thought to be caused by the consumption of contaminated products from cattle infected with BSE. According to the FDA, 155 people have contracted vCJD worldwide. The lone case reported in the United States was in a woman who had previously resided in the UK.

Although BSE and the minimal risk of humans contracting vCJD has dominated media headlines, Haag insisted that BSE "poses a far smaller risk than other food illnesses such as salmonella."

AP

Since the Mad Cow scare, most beef is subject to intense inspection.

2000 presidential hopeful to speak in College Chapel

from Levitt, page 1

"I think it's typical that the Levitt Center would bring such a liberal speaker to campus. It doesn't surprise me at all," said Alex Kaufman '06, President of the Hamilton College Republicans. "Although I respect his visit, I believe that a respectable institution should bring a conservative representative to show both sides of the spectrum."

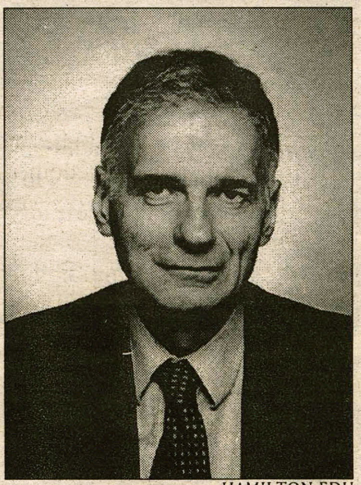
Democrats responded differently. "It's tremendous that a voice like this is coming to Hamilton. It is great to see someone in politics who has the courage to stick to his convictions," said Mike Mortimer '07 of the Hamilton College Democrats. "I'm very excited."

Klinker added, "The liberals should be happy, as he is a tireless advocate for liberal causes. The conservatives will also be happy, as he is the one that got George W. Bush elected in 2000."

In addition to Nader, a number of other politicians and professionals will speak about environmental policies this spring.

Alex Kotlowitz specializes in analyzing public housing projects and community factors in race relations. Kotlowitz has authored two books, *There Are No Children Here* and *The Other Side of the River*, and is currently a visiting professor at Northwestern University in Chicago. He will address members of the campus community on February 25 in the Science Auditorium.

Richard Rhodes will visit campus on March 3 to discuss "The Need for Nuclear Power." According to the Levitt Center, Rhodes has been "outspoken about the relative environmental advantages of nuclear power" in



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Consumer advocate and 2000 presidential hopeful Ralph Nader will speak in the Chapel in February.

journals such as *Foreign Affairs*. His lecture is co-sponsored by the Office of the President.

Also set to speak is Dr. Nina Schoch, a veterinarian in the Adirondacks who now works for the Wildlife Rehabilitant Society. Her lecture, co-sponsored by the Dean of Faculty, will focus on wilderness preservation and specifically, the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program.

Finally, Hamilton has invited Robert Greenstein, the director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to speak about the future of the federal budget. Greenstein will present his lecture in the College Chapel on Monday, April 12.

2004 Hamilton Public Speaking Competition

The Warren Wright Prize

The McKinney Prize

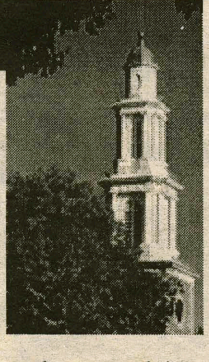
The Clark Prize

check out the details:

http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/publicspeaking/

IVORY TOWERS

THE NEWS AT COLLEGES ACROSS THE LAND



Compiled by Dan Bleeker '06

GOP Students Launch Complaint Web Site

BOULDER, Colorado (AP) — Republican students at the University of Colorado launched a Web site to gather complaints about left-leaning faculty members, saying they want to document discrimination against conservative students and indoctrination to the liberal viewpoint.

"We want concrete examples of bias in our arsenal when we go to the administration, the regents and the Legislature," said Brad Jones, 20, chairman of the College Republicans, who launched the Web site last week.

The CU College Republicans are affiliated with Students for Academic Freedom, a national organization started by California conservative activist David Horowitz, who is pushing a Colorado effort to protect students from what the group sees as harassment or discrimination based on political beliefs.

Most faculty and many Democrats deny liberal indoctrination exists on campuses.

"I'm shocked the students would resort to this," said Barbara Bintliff, a CU law school professor and chairwoman of the Boulder Faculty Assembly. "I'm concerned they may wind up with a blacklist"

Students Disciplined for Award Campaign

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — Officials disciplined students who papered their nearly all-white high school with posters advocating a white student from South Africa for the school's "Distinguished African American Student Award."

Peggy Rupprecht, spokeswoman for the Westside Community Schools district, said administrators at Westside High School discovered more than a hundred of the posters throughout the school first thing Monday — Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"The content of the posters, they believed, was inappropriate and insensitive to some members of our school community," Rupprecht said.

Citing privacy policies, Rupprecht said she could not specify what the penalties were or how many students were disciplined. But the mother of the boy pictured on the posters said he was suspended for two days.

The award has been given the last eight years to an outstanding black student as part of the school's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, she said.

The poster pictured junior Trevor Richards, 16, smiling and making a thumbs up sign. A message at the top encouraged votes for him for next year's award.

Karen Richards said her son and his friends were not trying to hurt anyone.

"My son is not a racist," she told the Omaha World-Herald. "He has black friends, friends from Bangladesh and Egypt. Color has never been an issue in our home."

"It was a very innocent thing," she said.

Two of her son's friends were disciplined along with him, she said. A fourth student was punished for circulating a petition Tuesday criticizing the practice of recognizing only black student achievement with the award, she said.

Penn Names PrincetonProvost as New President

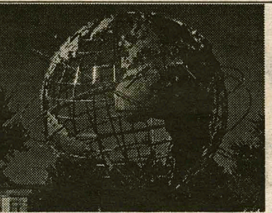
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The University of Pennsylvania has named Princeton University's provost as its new president, the first time an Ivy league school will have two consecutive female leaders, school officials announced Wednesday.

Amy Gutmann, 54, who joined Princeton's faculty in 1976 and has been provost there since 2001, will replace Judith Rodin on July 1. Rodin announced her plans to step down in June; she has been Penn's president since 1994.

Gutmann has taught such things as ethics and the history of political thought at Princeton.

Brown and Princeton are the only other Ivy schools that have had female presidents, and neither has had two in succession, said Ron Ozio, a Penn spokesman.

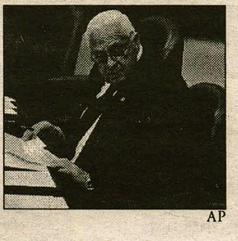
WORLD NEWS



Compiled by Dan Bleeker '06

Ariel Sharon Brushes Off Calls to Resign

JERUSALEM (AP) — A defiant Ariel Sharon brushed off calls to resign Thursday, vowing to complete his term despite a burgeoning bribery scandal. But even a top official from his own party said Sharon's days as prime minister may be numbered.



AP

Speaking publicly for the first time since a real estate developer was indicted Wednesday on charges of bribing Sharon with $690,000, Sharon told a youth gathering from the ruling Likud Party that he intended to stay.

"I arrived here as prime minister and as chairman of the Likud, a position I plan to fill for many more years, until 2007 at least," Sharon told the cheering youths, referring to the date of the next scheduled election.

Sharon has battled back from political adversity before. In 1983, he was forced to resign as defense minister when a government inquiry found him indirectly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians in Beirut refugee camps at the hands of Israel's allies in a Christian militia.

Justice Ministry officials said they would decide within weeks or months whether to indict Sharon for accepting bribes. Charges would only be filed if prosecutors are convinced he had criminal intent in taking the money.

Nine Killed in Surge of Violence in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Attackers killed nine people in an outburst of violence, including four Christian women headed to jobs at a U.S. military base and two American soldiers. South of the capital, the security chief of Spanish troops in Iraq was shot in the head during a raid.

Two Iraqi policemen were killed Thursday and three others were wounded when gunmen fired on a police checkpoint between Fallujah and Ramadi, two insurgency hotspots west of Baghdad.

The attack occurred along the same road where the day before, assailants firing from a speeding car killed four Christian women and wounded six other people in a convoy headed for the U.S. military base at Habaniyah, 50 miles west of the capital.

Askhik Varojan, who worked in the laundry at the U.S. base, had boarded a minibus Wednesday determined to hand in her resignation rather than live in fear from the insurgents targeting those helping the coalition forces.

China's President Celebrates New Year

BEIJING (AP) — It was a visual made for television, and for the Chinese president's own image, too: Hu Jintao surrounded by villagers Thursday, stuffing dumpling skins with seasoned pork for the Lunar New Year.

As China's Communist leadership pushes its agenda of making the people feel they're cared for, small pastiches that make them appear more human are leading the propaganda push.

Thursday's splashy New Year programming showed Hu, dressed in a simple black windbreaker, wrapping and boiling meat-filled "jiaozi" with villagers near Beijing.

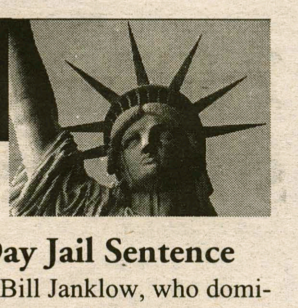
"The Communist Party is a party for all the people, and our government is the people's government," Hu declared.

As the top man in China placed a lump of meat into a flour wrapper, he emphasized the main message of his year-old administration - that the government's primary responsibility is the people's welfare, especially in poor areas.

"That, after all, is socialism," Hu said, as a man in a cloth cap nodded. A woman nearby churned out more flour wrappers with a wooden rolling pin.

The scene from Hebei province fitted neatly with Hu's increasing efforts to portray himself as a president with a common touch, whether chatting with Mongolian herders in their tents or donning a hard hat to tour a factory.

NATIONAL NEWS



Compiled by Dan Bleeker '06

Janklow Draws 100-Day Jail Sentence

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — Bill Janklow, who dominated South Dakota politics for three decades as governor and then congressman, was sentenced to 100 days in jail Thursday for an auto accident that killed a motorcyclist and ended Janklow's career in disgrace.

After 30 days behind bars, Janklow will be allowed to leave jail during the day for up to 10 hours to perform community service. After he completes his jail term, he will be on probation for three years, during which he will not be allowed to drive.

The 64-year-old Republican was found guilty Dec. 8 of second-degree manslaughter, speeding and running a stop sign for a collision that killed 55-year-old motorcyclist Randy Scott at a rural intersection on Aug. 16. Janklow announced his resignation from the House hours after the verdict.

South Dakota does not require minimum sentences, so Judge Rodney Steele was free to impose anything from no jail time and no fines to a total of more than 11 years behind bars and $11,400 in fines.

The judge fined Janklow $5,000 and ordered him to pay $50 a day for the cost of his 100 days in jail, for another $5,000. The former congressman was ordered to report to the county jail in Sioux Falls on Feb. 7.

Prison Hostage Talks Well Into Fifth Day

PHOENIX (AP) — Since Sunday, two prison guards have been held hostage by a pair of inmates in a three-story, gray-block watchtower flanked by barbed wire fence and believed to be stocked with weapons.

Over the long days and nights, coffee and water have been sent in; at least one gas canister has been tossed out. But aware that the inmates hold the high ground and the lives of two guards, authorities are doing the only thing they can: keep talking.

The tower is a freestanding structure with two enclosed floors and a screened third floor and overlooks a yard for high-risk inmates. Prison officials will not say whether the tower is stocked with weapons, but note that it was built to be secure.

Because the inmates have a high position on open ground, few options exist to end the hostage situation quickly, said Paul Sutton, a criminal justice professor at San Diego State University who has studied prison life.

Bush Claims Progress Against Terrorism

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP) — President Bush claimed broad progress Thursday in the war against terrorism but warned against complacency toward "the ultimate danger." He proposed spending more than $30 billion on combating terrorism at home next year.

The spending figure would be an increase of more than $2 billion over the current budget year.

Bush, visiting a state he barely lost in the 2000 election, ticked off military successes in Afghanistan and Iraq but made no mention of Osama bin Laden's disappearance nor the failure of American inspectors to find Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

The president offered a forceful defense of the Iraq war, his voice rising to a shout as he addressed a supportive crowd of about 1,600 military servicemembers and young cadets.

"I made the tough decision of war," Bush said. "It's not easy, but we acted because the lessons of Sept. 11. We acted based upon the facts."

Bush made only passing reference to the American death toll in Iraq, which this month surpassed 500.

Violence has continued in Iraq.

Two U.S. soldiers were killed and another wounded during a rocket and mortar barrage late Wednesday northeast of Baghdad. Attackers killed nine people in Baghdad Thursday, including four Christian women headed to jobs at a U.S. military base. South of the capital, the security chief of Spanish troops was shot in the head.

"I appreciate the moms and dads, husbands and wives, who are staying at home as their loved one goes off to defend America and to spread freedom," Bush said. "Their loved ones sacrifice and so do the families."

Pair of "exemplary teachers" promoted

*from **Promoted**, page 1*

Catalyst for Social Change in the Americas (2000). Drogus has already completed and published one book, *Women, Religion, and Social Change in Brazil's Popular Church*, and is currently completing a final revision to her manuscript for a second book that examines political activists in post-military Brazil and Chile.

HAMILTON.EDU

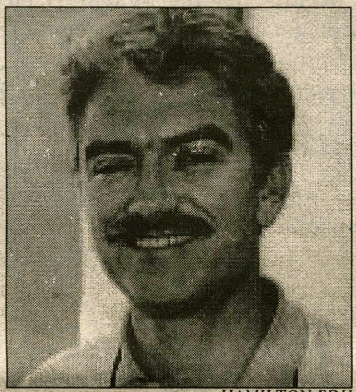
Professor Carol Drogus recently received the Class of 1963 Award for new class development.

Paris described Drogus as "an accomplished and innovative teacher who recently received both the Class of 1963 Award for new course development and the Christian Johnson Foundation Grant for faculty development of teaching materials. Her research and writing on Latin America, women, religion and social movements have garnered accolades from fellow scholars."

Drogus looks forward to doing more inter-disciplinary teaching, as she did in the previous semester for a sophomore seminar. Drogus notes that teaching inter-disciplinary courses is a great way to grow as a teacher, and that these courses also provide wonderful opportunities for students to study different concentrations.

Orvis teaches Introduction to Comparative Politics, Politics of Africa, Political Economy of Development, Nationalism and the Politics of Identity, and College 130: Coming of Age in America. Drogus teaches courses on comparative politics, Latin American politics, and gender and politics.

Paris called the pair of government professors "exemplary teachers, impressive scholars, and dedicated campus citizens," concluding his memo with a call for congratulations.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Professor Steve Orvis took students to Kenya for three weeks in 2000.

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The Spectator

"Older than the New York Times"

Martin Luther King Day provides students, as well as others in the United States, an opportunity to celebrate the life and work of an inspirational non-violent and anti-racist activist. King, through eloquent oration, large-scale organization, leadership, and his own example, helped to dismantle many of the most egregiously racist practices in the United States. Despite the progress made by King in moving the United States towards racial equality, American society today remains highly segregated and far from equitable. Overt, as well as covert and institutional forms of racism, not only still exist in the United States but are far too common, and men and women of color remain the victims of stereotypes and racism.

The institutional message that having white or light skin is more desirable can be found in many arenas in the United States. Racial profiling, which has only intensified since the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, operates on the assumption that certain racial characteristics make a person more likely to commit a crime. Racial minorities are underrepresented at all levels of politics. In addition, in all employment sectors racial minorities appear in strikingly few upper-level management positions. Few television programs and movies feature racial minorities as the main characters. Further, schools rarely teach students about the literature, history, and contributions of racial minorities. White people can see images of themselves as wealthy, powerful, and accepted almost anywhere they look; in contrast, members of racial minorities are more likely to see negative images of themselves or to not see themselves at all. All of this sends a clear message about what American society values and what it does not.

As a white student, especially on a predominantly white and wealthy campus such as Hamilton, it is easy to ignore the many ways in which having white skin affords a person privileges. In contrast, as a student of color, it is impossible to avoid confronting the ways in which society disadvantages those who do not have white skin. Although many white people do not actively seek to discriminate against people of color, by virtue of the fact that they participate in a system rank with racial inequalities, white people are racists. In order to progress toward a more equitable society, white people must be willing to acknowledge the ways in which their skin color has afforded them privileges. In addition, white people need to be willing to confront others about their own stereotypes, privileges, and roles in a racist society.

Racism is not only a problem for those who are disadvantaged by society; living in a racist society hurts all its members. Furthermore, as a white person it is not enough to not discriminate against others; white people must take responsibility to for changing the racist institutions that make up our society and strive to be actively anti-racist by acknowledging their own privileges and challenging others to do the same.

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ASHTON KUTCHER
THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT — STADIUM SEATING
●12:30●2:50▲5:10-7:30-9:50 DTS R

ALONG CAME POLLY — BEN STILLER
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA! — JENNIFER ANISTON
●1:00●3:00▲5:05-7:20-9:25 DTS PG-13

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
●12:05●2:10▲4:20-6:30-8:40 STEVE MARTIN PG

4 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE
BIG FISH ●2:00▲4:30-7:05-9:35
EWAN MCGREGOR ALBERT FINNEY DTS PG-13

TORQUE ICE CUBE 6:35-8:25-10:05 PG-13

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING
●12:20▲4:10-8:00 PG-13

8 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE & BEST ACTRESS BEST ACTOR BEST SUPP. ACTRESS
NICOLE KIDMAN JUDE LAW RENEE ZELLWEGER
COLD MOUNTAIN ●12:40▲3:40-6:40-9:40 R

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Bad shows on the boob tube

by Blake Erb '05
Insights & Ideas Writer

Winter break from college always holds the possibility of being incredibly boring for students. We get used to the high levels of stress and activity-filled days that define the Hamilton College experience. At home, it is easy to do absolutely nothing, and I really mean nothing.

For the most part, I really enjoyed my Winter break, but in many cases it was frightfully dull. In an effort to combat my boredom, I watched many hours of cable television. I almost threw my TV out of my second-floor window by the time break was over.

American television and, in most cases, the American media in general have been taking a disturbing trend towards the dangerous region of "Suck." I realized this after many hours of reviewing the 200-plus channels my parents' digital cable service provides.

By the way, why do we need all these flippin' channels! We now have channels that focus on extremely small interest groups or channels that play the exact same things as ten other channels. There are movie channels for every movie genre that has ever existed and channels focusing on specific types of sports, activities and interests. There are probably eleventy billion different premier channels (I can't even count how many HBO channels there are).

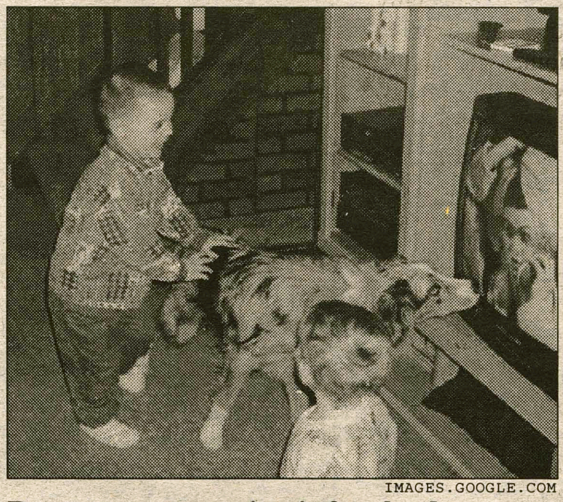
The disturbing thing is not that all of these channels exist, it's that all of these channels are able to survive and make money. This means that all of these 200-plus channels are able to lure in enough viewers to get the necessary amount of advertisement and sponsorship funds. I really think I could create a channel that just featured clips of random people playing air guitar in their rooms, sell the idea to advertisers and get a solid base of viewers.

This explosion of channel options would not be so bad if any of the channels showed anything entertaining, educational or useful in some way. I'm sorry, but besides sports broadcasts and the news, American television is completely moronic and useless. I can get more out of life by staring at my wall; at least then I think about things that could be entertaining or helpful.

Every day of break, there was the same old stupid and mindless drivel; I seriously thought that I was stuck in a "Groundhog Day"-esque scenario. It was like I couldn't move on to the next day until I found a channel that was actually entertaining and didn't make me feel like my brain was leaking from my ears.

You would be surprised how very difficult it is to find a program on TV that is NOT a home decoration/improvement show or a reality-based program.

These are the only two things that one can find on TV with any sort of consistency. I can't even begin to count how many times I saw utterly incompetent, middle-aged homeowners weep and cheer upon seeing their new and improved kitchen! Or how many times I witnessed a "deep and meaningful" conversation among young adults, usually discussing the topics of alcohol or sex. As we all know, these are obviously the only important subjects that concern our age group. Heaven forbid we have others worries, concerns, or fears besides when we'll get laid next or where the next party is going to be and whether or not we'll get invited.



Recent programming is for the dogs.... and mentally challenged individuals.

I think I enjoyed American television better when we were just stealing game show ideas from our neighbours across the ocean, the British. At least with trivia and physical challenge games, the contestants could feel like they made an accomplishment or something.

Also, all able-bodied and able-minded persons had a chance, albeit small, to compete on these shows. Now you need to be incredibly good-looking to get on a reality TV show or own an incredibly unorganized/-filthy/ugly home or apartment to be featured on one of the many home improvement shows.

The problem is not only within these specific shows. Reality-based and home improvement-based programming have been around for many years. I remember watching "Real World" with my brother when I was in middle school and watching "This Old House" with my Mom on Saturday mornings. The problem lies in the fact that television programming went from offering these types of shows as one of many options to being one of a few crappy options.

Now, MTV shows absolutely no music, unless you count the fact that they play "popular" music in the background on their entirely ridiculous dating shows, party shows, etc. TLC and "Trading Spaces' have influenced a plethora of home decoration and improvement clones that are clogging up all similar channels.

Networks have ceased to focus on delivering clever and witty sitcoms, but instead are focusing on shows such as "Celebrity Mole Yucatan", "The Bachelorette" and "Survivor: All-Stars". All of these shows are locked in vicious, brain-rotting circles. We all know that the finalist in "The Bachelorette" that is not chosen by the nominally attractive Meredith will be the bachelor for next season's "The Bachelor".

Holy crap! What's wrong with these people? Are they such losers that they need to go on television to get a freakin' date! It's called being social, guys! Here's how you meet people. Listen carefully. Leave your house, go to a place with lots of people, smile and make conversation with people who interest you. Asking questions help, as does not being a total and complete toolbox. There! I solved the problem that all the men on "The Bachelorette" are having. Can they stop showing this crap now?

There is so much more that could be said on the downfall of American television but I think that it speaks for itself. Hell, even ESPN, the one channel I thought I could depend on, seems like it is taking the tempting yet ultimately evil path of reality programming with their "Dream Job" show, slated to premiere on February 22.

Golly, is it so bad to desire the TV from my childhood, when there were a variety of entertaining, educational, intellectual and funny television shows?

I want to see "The Adventures of Pete and Pete" on Nickelodeon, flip to a network channel and witness the hilarity and cleverness of a "MASH" episode, and finally go to the Discovery channel and watch a thrilling and moving special on the life of Toby, the lonesome grey wolf. Is that so much to ask? It seems so. Oh no! Gotta go! "The Apprentice" is on! I can't wait to see who is going to be fired this week!

Thumbs Up

- **Tex-Mex now delivering to Hamilton (315-737-1010).**
- **Townies with the last name "Townie."**
- **Breaking the "Seven Deadly Sins of Writing" in one paragraph.**
- **Late night food at the VT.**
- **The only good thing about the weather: the Shorts/T-Shirt Kid has finally met his match.**
- **Prank calling from the callboxes.**
- **Freshmen pledges: sacrificing your lives for our happiness since 1812.**
- **Extending your vacation/bender until the Registrar's 2:00pm Add/Drop Deadline.**

Thumbs Down

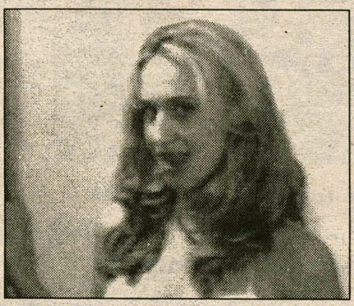
- **The kid who thinks the weather is acceptable party-time conversation.**
- **Your Professor/Advisor catching you redhanded with 4 40s at the Nice 'n Easy.**
- **Freshmen girls packing on extra layers to disguise the fact that they packed on extra layers.**
- **Our Thumbs Up/Down "Fallen" soldier.**
- **The potential failure of Uncle Jitney on one of the drunkest weekends of the year.**
- **Verbal diarrhea.**

Nakul Patel '05, Peyton Gray '05, Avery Schlicher '05, Deirdre Fenton '04, and Matthew Amoroso '05

Who Cares?

- **UGGS Mania.**
- **The one kid who not only did the reading, but did the reading for the next three weeks, dick.**
- **The Squash team's massive, school-sponsored drug binge in Amsterdam.**
- **Jan. Admits = 2nd rate Freshmen.**
- **Returning juniors who think "Hamilton is sooooooooo different now."**
- **Going into China Sea and feeling like you're Mariah Carey without her Prozac.**
- **The face-off of the semester: the "whimsical" nature of Commons versus McEwen's "drab concrete walls."**

Come on Clinton: Talk dirty to me, baby



by Klitora Kirkland
(Sarah Schwartz '04)

and Phallixander Hamilton
(Dan Fiore '04)

DISCLAMER: The purpose of Come on Clinton is to discuss sex and sex related issues at Hamilton College in a light-hearted, non-judgmental, responsible way, with the goal of creating a publicized dialogue regarding issues that are often discussed by and impact the student body. Due to the liberal nature of the column, some may find the content inappropriate or offensive. Reader discretion is advised.

Winter break is hard. Being hard and/or wet during winter break is even harder, especially when you keep encountering tubes of your mother's KY Jelly, while you have no outlet for your rampant sexual energy except the old Justin Timberlake album/self-abuse routine.

Aren't you glad to be back at Hamilton College where the weather is as hot as your sex life? Well, maybe not, but if you want to make things steam up, consider the prospect of engaging in some dirty talk!

As it turned out, Hamilton students were quite forthcoming in admitting their endeavors in talking dirty. One female senior immediately said, "Eh, it kind of freaks me out," when we broached the subject with her, but quickly changed her tune, saying that dirty talking is always a preliminary to her masturbation sessions. It seems that many Hamiltonians have engaged in some form of dirty talking throughout their college career... and haven't disliked it either.

If you get that knot of "discomfort" in your stomach/special area when you recall dirty words that were spoken to you, don't ignore it. The discomfort may be mixed with hidden desire. Read on...

Oh, YES, baby!

The bottom line seems to be that dirty talking is best done with a trusted partner, once you've got a feel for their likes and dislikes in the sack. Hearing certain words from a new sexual partner can feel offensive and even frightening, because talking dirty during a sexual interaction is very different than expressing a fantasy before a sexual interaction.

So why talk dirty when the idea initially makes you uncomfortable? A very wise and sexy senior male explained that dirty talking is pleasurable on a purely physical basis because it involves having someone whisper in your ear. No all of us may think that the ear is an erogenous zone, but oh sweet Lord, it is. Simply hearing anything at all whispered in your ear can get you shaking like a Polaroid picture.

If you're strapped for ideas as to what might actually be said in the dirty talk genre, "f*** me" or "I love f***ing you" is a very reasonable place to start. Based on the students we spoke to, many reported having used one or both of these phrases before. Indeed, adding the f-bomb to any sentence really kicks it up a notch. A half-assed "you're so hot" becomes passionate with the addition of the f-bomb. Say it out loud if you don't believe us: "You're so f***ing hot!"

Another reason to consider adding talking dirty to your sexual repertoire is the principle of encouragement. Although Cosmo magazine usually doesn't have anything valuable to say about sex, they do tend to hit one point right; that is, the fact that men and women both need encouragement during sex. Don't just lay there - breathe, moan, move. And, if it gets you and your partner going, talk dirty!

Finally, sex is often best when it involves a loss of inhibitions. What better way to let go than to say what's on your mind and step out of character. We often classify ourselves as people who "would never do this" or "never do that" without even truly asking ourselves if we want to.

Oh, NO, baby!

Dr. Backaliscious (resident Hamilton sexpert and a dear friend of Phallix and Klit) has experienced the grotesque consequences of dirty talk gone awry. A young man placed her delicate hand on his special area and said, in all seriousness, "So big. So hard." Dr. Backaliscious explained that this young man was, in fact, not all that big and only semi-hard, as he had been drinking the devil's juice all night long.

This comment made her want to vomit, because it was both a lie and an act of cocky disrespect. You have to put your money where your mouth is when it comes to dirty talk, though this can be taken too far...

Some men suffer from a case of "The Third Person Penis." That's right - some men believe that their penis is an entity unto itself and it should be referred to as such during any sexual situation. Too much "he likes that," "he wants you" leaves your partner wondering, "what about me?"

A final phrase that should be banned forever from the unofficial dictionary of dirty talk is, "do you like that?" The implication is that the other person must reply, "yes." It's a presumptuous question that's really more of a demand, and making demands during sex can be dangerous business with someone you don't trust one hundred percent.

Finally, you may have encountered the ever-confusing masked insult during a sexual encounter. "You're a pro" is a seeming compliment with a dark underside. "All I want to do is screw you" is all well and good on first glance, but a bit of a put down on further examination - unless, of course, the feeling is mutual.

And Finally...

It is important to figure out if your discomfort with the idea of talking dirty, or any sexual experimentation for that matter, is genuine or if you have just been conditioned to feel uncomfortable.

Phallix and Klit challenge you to discover something out of the ordinary that turns you on and to find a way to try it with a consensual partner and/or yourself. A little creativity never hurt anyone. And if the road to sexual liberation gets rough, just remember, you're got Phallix and Klitora behind you, sometimes under you.

Nerds: they're *so* hot right now

by Whit Rothe '05
Insights & Ideas Editor

Over the course of history, it has been tough for dorky guys to find compatible mates, due to poorly developed social skills and the constant desire to play RISK twenty-two hours a day.

With the athletes and jerks holding the monopoly over the female population for the past several millennia, nerds have been the minority in the dating scene until now. A revolution has taken place, and now most social experts agree that nerdy guys are the new Prada Bags.

The seeds were first planted in the eighties, when Anthony Michael Hall rose to superstardom playing nerdy roles in The Breakfast Club and Sixteen Candles, respectively. He was a pioneer: a nerd who overcame his social deficiencies, willing to put himself on the line for the rest of dorkkind.

While it was still fashionable to shun most nerds in the eighties, they were too busy playing Nintendo, Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego, and the Oregon Trail to really notice or care for that matter.

However, nerds are people too, so the desire to get laid was still powerful enough to encourage nerds to take breaks from squishing Goombas, taking trips to Rio, shooting endless pounds of buffalo, and losing their parties while trying to cross that giant river. Those few breaks were lonely times for most nerds, as all they wanted was a to sleep with a girl really, really badly. Those were the dark ages.

IMAGES.GOOGLE.COM

These days, nerds conquer the ladies almost as well as they conquer Kamchatka, the Congo, or Irkutsk.

However, the tides begin to shift at the turn of the century. All of those nerds who were shunned in high school became big-time stockbrokers, made megabucks, and then lost it all in corporate scandals.

Nerds were finally beginning to be noticed by the popular culture. If Anthony Michael Hall was the poster child for hot nerdiness in the eighties, Bill Gates was the super stud of nerds in the nineties and really brought the dork into the mainstream.

The proliferation of the Internet was the ultimate coup for nerdkind. The nerds' stomping grounds became the mainstream form of communication, and now they were the studs with experience in the chat rooms who could effectively communicate with women all over the world. The nerds' confidence was growing day by day.

Now, our society is entering a golden age for nerds. Dorks have taken over all forms of media communication. Nerdy movies such as The Matrix, Spider-Man, X-Men, and The Lord of the Rings kick tail at the box office and beat out all other genres. The Harry Potter books (a nerd's wet dream in a dust jacket) has taken the publishing world by storm.

The Video Game industry has become a major player as nerds design new Madden games and first-person shooters. Yes sir, the nerd empire has begun, and it is now fashionable to date a nerdy guy. It's about damn time.

Thus, all of you ladies better get yours quick, because they are going fast. Better yet, give me a call at x2896 or email me at wrothe@hamilton.edu. I can promise you a fabulous evening of flowers, dinner, a game of RISK, and then an all-night romp between the sheets. I am about as nerdy as they come, and damn...we're in fashion. I swear.

Got something to say?

Write for Insights and Ideas!

Contact Allison at adavis or Whit at wrothe.

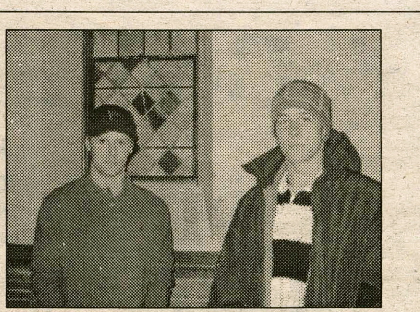
What did you miss most about Hamilton over break?

"I didn't miss any of Hamilton over break." - Aaron Green '05

"The astounding oral hygiene of Hamilton students." - Hannah Toce '05

photography by Alyssa Menegat '05 and Sarah Mattingly '05

"Stimulation." - Kevin Bourque '04



"We missed our friends." - Mark Meigher '07 and Christian Warner '07

This is the state of our Union?

by Bill Chenevert '05
Insights & Ideas Writer

When I watched the State of the Union address on Tuesday night I found myself saying, "He's talking about terrorists again?" and "Did he just say thugs?" and "When's he going to talk about education and health care?" In my opinion it was a joke of a State of the Union address, a purely campaign-driven speech that visibly split the House and Senate on several issues, and did not provide an adequate vision for the future.

The first half-hour focused almost entirely on Bush's foreign policy. He reassured us that the United States f America is still at constant threat of being victimized by terrorist regimes. He also constantly referred to the "hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women are deployed across the world in the war on terror." I wonder if any parents of soldiers in the Middle East watch the State of the Union and thought, 'This guy's insane. I know my son's brave and risking his life, but I'm still not voting for you.' I hope so.

Smoothly transitioning into stressing the importance of renewing the Patriot Act, Bush said, "[an] essential tool is the Patriot Act, which allows federal law enforcement to better share information, to track terrorists, to disrupt their cells, and to seize their assets... Key provisions of the Patriot Act are set to expire next year. [insert Democratic Senate applause here] The terrorist threat will not expire on that schedule. Our law enforcement needs this vital legislation to protect our citizens you need to renew the Patriot Act [insert Republican Senate applause here]." Because of statements like this, our country has never been so divided on a host of issues, all thanks to our beloved commander-in-chief.

Bush then went on to sing the successes of his Iraqi campaigns: "We are dealing with these thugs in Iraq, just as surely as we dealt with Saddam Hussein's evil regime." Tugs? What is this, the Bronx? He proceeded to make a back-handed jab at the Clinton administration for not thoroughly hunting down, trying, and killing anyone involved with the 1993 World Trade Center attacks.

Then, the real humdinger. "The terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States and war is what they got... But let us be candid about the consequences of leaving Saddam Hussein in power. We are seeking all the facts already the Kay Report identified dozens of weapons of mass destruction-related program activities [my italics for emphasis] and significant amounts of equipment that Iraq concealed from the United Nations."

Jon Stewart ripped on this quote on the Daily Show. First, notice the transition from 9/11 to Saddam Hussein. It has not been confirmed that weapons of mass destruction were really found in Iraq, even in Baghdad and Tikrit, after we invaded those cities. Okay, that being said, DOZENS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION-RELATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES!? Wow, so that was why we went to Iraq? Not the laundry list of dangerous weapons that Bush cited Saddam Hussein had in his previous State of the Union address? Funny.

One of the last notes of foreign policy was a promise to be out of Iraq by June of next year, a salute to Pachachi including a celebration of Iraq as a free and democratic nation, and further vague affirmations that America is a unique country that must help other troubled countries. "America is a nation with a mission, and that mission comes from our most basic beliefs. We have no desire to dominate, no ambitions of empire," said Bush.

Yet, our culture of capitalist consumerism and insatiable appetites for mindless entertainment with sex and violence is beginning to dominate other cultures around the world. Under George W. Bush we are building an empire that we should be ashamed of.

On the subject of domestic issues, the second jewel of this most recent State of the Union makes an appearance. Bush launched into a lengthy rant against the odd topic of performance-enhancing drugs in professional sports: "To help children make right choices, they need good examples. Athletics play such an important role in our society, but, unfortunately, some in professional sports are not setting much of an example... Tonight I call on team owners, union representatives, coaches, and players to take the lead, to send the right signal, to get tough, and to get rid of steroids now." Abstinence programming? Drug testing? Banning steroids? Indeed very pressing and important issues.

Bush concluded with some sentimental garbage, sharing an account of his meeting a little girl, Ashley Pearson, from Rhode Island. Age two, er, ten. She wanted to know if she could help 'save our country'. Why is Bush is wasting his time as the leader of the free world reading mail from ten year olds?

I get incredibly frustrated watching political commentary, reading campaign reports and watching the President run our country. I get this feeling that there is nothing that I can do, and even though I will most definitely vote (and vote Democratic - let's put that out on the table right now), it's all just a big dramatic show that we're watching. Nevertheless, some people are doing something about it and I heartily applaud our Hamilton College Democrats for braving the New Hampshire cold to support a Democratic candidate.

We've come to a pivotal moment in American political history, and I believe that if we reelect Bush our country will go deeper and deeper into debt (as Democratic presidential hopeful

*see **Union**, page 16*

NO STRAW MEN

by Jonathan Rick '05
Insights & Ideas Columnist

First Thoughts on Free Trade

In the January 6th edition of the New York Times, Charles Schumer and Paul Craig Roberts penned an op-ed titled, "Second Thoughts on Free Trade."

Schumer is the senior senator from New York and Roberts was assistant secretary of the Treasury for economic policy in the Reagan administration, so their argument is important as it reveals how today's politicians rationalize their politics.

"[T]he United States may be entering a new economic era in which American workers will face direct global competition at almost every job level - from the machinist to the software engineer to the Wall Street analyst...

When American companies replace domestic employees with lower-cost foreign workers in order to sell more cheaply in home markets, it seems hard to argue that this is the way free trade is supposed to work."

Of course, these "second thoughts" are old hat; the anti-free trade argument amounts to an obnoxious and embarrassing money-grab. For protectionism, in any form, is nothing more than the art of lobbying - bribes and blackmail, or what Ayn Rand called "pull-peddling."[1]

Indeed, as philosopher Harry Binswanger observes in an essay titled, "'Buy American' Is un-American," "Economic nationalism, like racism, means judging men and their products by the group from which they come, not by merit."

Furthermore, U.S. companies only transfer labor overseas en masse because American relative prices and wages are artificially high. And they're only that way because the U.S. government, via tariffs, subsidies, and countless similar statist mechanisms, insulates certain industries, like steel and agriculture, from the global market.

Sure, many Indians and Chinese will work cheaper and longer irrespective of how low and long American wages and hours go. Sure, Japan will heavily subsidize its automobile industry. But since when did Americans - we titans of industry - become afraid of a little competition? Indeed, the land of opportunity should embrace these assiduous "foreigners," instead of heaping the welfare state on domestic moochers.

[1] Real campaign finance reform therefore means, as the Web site NoLobby.com puts it, "To take money out of politics, take politics out of money."

The Man Who Speaks To You of Sacrifice

Earlier this year Saturday Night Live ran a skit on Islamic terrorists, whom Osama bin Laden has just dispatched to martyr themselves for Allah - and for the seventy-two dark-haired virgins that await them in paradise. [1]

When somebody asks the bin Laden character why he isn't sacrificing for the cause, he fumbles over his words, screams out something about Allah, and proceeds to dispatch another group of martyrs to die-in his stead.

Indeed, since the start of the Second Gulf War, whenever we heard from Saddam, he invariably exhorted friends, Romans and countrymen to fight the infidel-to sacrifice in the cause of a greater good. And yet, when we found him last night, the ex-dictator was in disguise and hiding, crouched in a six-by-eight-foot spider hole. Sure, he had a pistol, but even at this point of no return, he refused to martyr himself.

Ayn Rand explains, through Elsworth Toohey in her novel The Fountainhead. "Don't bother to examine a folly - ask yourself only what it accomplishes... It stands to reason that where there's sacrifice, there's someone collecting sacrificial offerings... The man who speaks to you of sacrifice, speaks of slaves and masters. And intends to be the master."

Social theorist Chris Sciabarra draws the political implications. "Hussein, bin Laden, and other leaders of Islamic terrorism are fully capable of sacrificing their own people; they most assuredly do not wish to die themselves."

It is therefore reasonable "that pointing a nuke at Baghdad" - the U.S. Cold War policy of Mutually Assured Destruction - "can still have the required effect of keeping Hussein in check... Why would he have so many tunnels and escape routes under his various castles if living were not a priority?" (italics omitted).

[1] In Live on Broadway - the funniest stand-up I've ever seen - Robin Williams tells how after bin Laden ascends to heaven, seventy-two members of the Continental Congress greet him. "How dare you defile that which we created," George Washington declares, before they start beating him up. "What's this?" asks bin Laden; "Where are my virgins?" "Seventy-two Virginians, you asshole!" Washington replies.

Arts & Entertainment

Hamilton Features Footworks Percussive Dance and Step Afrika! Collaboration

Clinton, NY-Hamilton College Performing Arts opens the Spring semester on Saturday, Jan.24, at 8 p.m. in Wellin Hall. Footworks returns to Wellin with StepAfrika! in a special collaboration called *SoleMates*.

Celebrating a shared American heritage, each company represents a different range of traditional percussive dance art while presenting innovative original choreography. From Southern Appalachian clogging to the stepping tradition of African-American fraternities and sororities, *SoleMates* explores the similarities and differences of these black and white music and dance forms and illuminates how these traditions have influenced each other.

The performance will include percussive dance, Appalachian clogging, and step dance performed by members of both companies, as well as live bluegrass music and African drumming. Throughout the evening, the audience will be lead on a journey that begins with traditional African and Irish dance and travels to America to tell the story of Appalachian percussive dance traditions and African-American fraternity and sorority step dance culture. This unique performance demonstrates that dance is a common language that transcends boundaries of class, race, and background, and that music is a soulful expression of our collective cultural experience.

Since 1979, Footworks has enjoyed bringing their unique performances of traditional and innovative music and dance to theaters and festivals at home and abroad. In the last 4 years, the company has performed in 35 states, 3 Canadian provinces, Finland, and their 11th tour of the U.K. The troupe represented American culture internationally as part of the Smithsonian's living exhibit to Japan in 1994 and as guest artists in the London production of *Riverdance* in 1996.

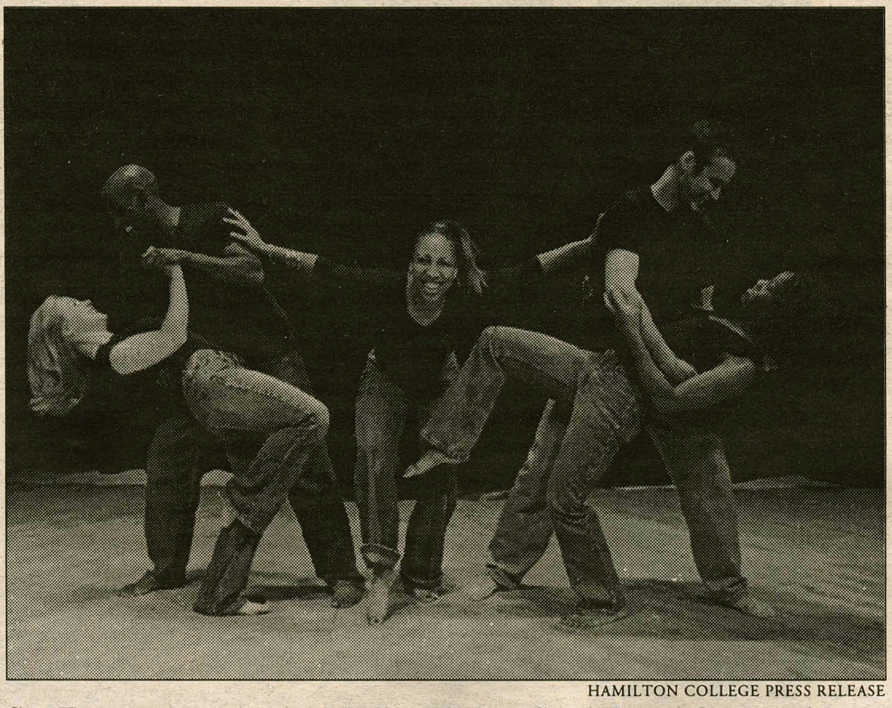
The ensemble is renowned for their work in arts-in-education, performing residencies, workshops, and programs for schools locally, nationally, and in the U.K. and Canada. Each member of the company is dedicated to teaching children and adults. Footworks has recently created a youth ensemble of the company's students. The Junior Company performs at community events in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

Step Afrika! is a powerful collaborative project between young artists from the United States, Europe and the South Africa-based Soweto Dance Theater. A by-product of annual sojourns to the Step Afrika! International Cultural Festival in Soweto, South Africa, the project highlights the African-American fraternity and sorority art form of stepping and its links to dance traditions around the world.

Founded in December 1994, Step Afrika! USA is the American arm of the groundbreaking festival. An arts organization that houses an explosive percussive dance ensemble, the company reaches tens of thousands of Americans each year and has performed on many stages in North America, Europe and South Africa. Reviewers describe Step Afrika!'s performance as a "high energy brand of precision stepping"-a dance genre considered by some to be one of the most exciting created by Americans in the 21st century—and its performers "an enormously powerful ensemble of dancers."

This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Hamilton College and the Hamilton College Department of Music.

Tickets for SoleMates are $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and $5 for students. All seating is general admission. For more information or to order tickets, call the box office at 859-4331 and leave a message.



HAMILTON COLLEGE PRESS RELEASE

See Footworks return to Wellin Hall on Saturday at 8 p.m. with StepAfrika! in a special collaboration called *Solemates*.

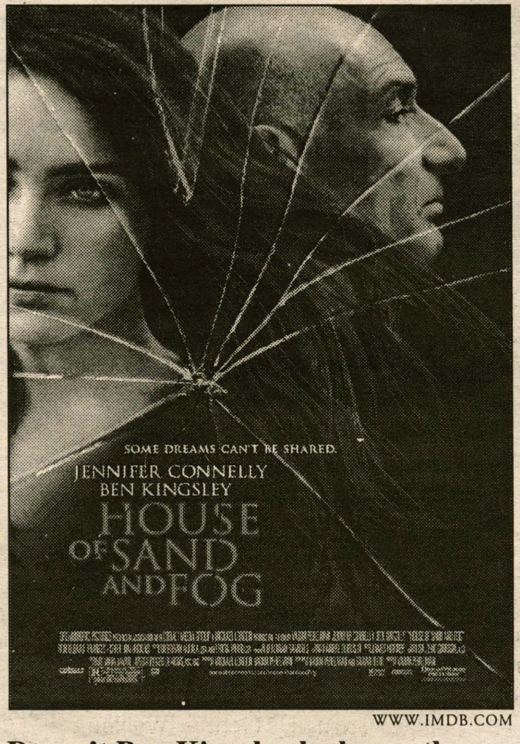
A Look Back at the Holiday Movie Season

Alina Troya '04 gives you her thoughts on some of December's biggest films

Holiday time means movie time, so, as expected, there were a number of great movies that came out over break. And with awards season rapidly approaching, most of them are still playing in a theater near you. Among the best, in my opinion were *Something's Gotta Give*, *Mona Lisa Smile*, *Cold Mountain*, *The House of Sand and Fog*, and *Big Fish*. This variety provides something for everyone, so whether you want comedy or heart, history or family, or even a little bit of everything, put these five flicks on your list.

Jack and Diane are as funny as can be in *Something's Gotta Give*. Harry Sanborn (Jack Nicholson) is a more than middle-aged man who's robbing the cradle with Marin (Amanda Peet), one of the many lovely young women with whom he spends his wild nights partying. He couldn't ask for any more in life until he meets Marin's mother, playwright Erica Barry (Diane Keaton). She is settled in a much simpler life of writing and solitude, fooling herself into thinking that she's content with it. The story takes a twist when Harry has a heat attack while undertaking some strenuous activity and they rush him to the hospital. There we meet Dr. Julian Mercer (Keanu Reeves), a strapping young man who seems quite taken with Erica, as he is a fan of her plays. You might see where this is going. Frances McDormand also appears in the film as Zoe Barry, Erica's slightly more liberal sister who adds to the perfect comedic timing of the movie with her witticisms.

This romantic comedy is a little different from most because the main characters are not the typical gorgeous actors in their mid-twenties and it is a lot more comedy than romance as well. Jack Nicholson has transformed into a different kind of actor, kind of like what we saw in *About Schmidt*, and he and Diane Keaton have some hilarious scenes together that will leave you laughing out loud.



WWW.IMDB.COM

Doesn't Ben Kingsley look exactly like Dr. Evil in this poster?

Cold Mountain, originally a novel by Charles Frazier, takes place in a small town in South Carolina and in the surrounding areas of battle during the Civil War. It is a timeless story of a man and a woman torn apart by war, but it also incorporates some fresher elements. Ada (Nicole Kidman) is the daughter of Reverend Monroe (Donald Sutherland). She falls in love with a worker named Inman (Jude Law), but their relationship is just getting started when the war begins, and Inman is sent off. The story continues as Inman is wounded and tries to make the journey back home without being caught by the Union soldiers or being shot by his own army for deserterting. Ada, an educated woman, knows little about the farm, so she gets some help from Ruby Thewes (Renée Zellweger), a sort of country bumpkin with a feisty attitude and tons of great lines. Natalie Portman also appears in the film along with a slew of recognizable faces, which creates a great ensemble cast. *Cold Mountain* has both bloody battle scenes and romance (although the romantic scenes are slightly lacking in emotional substance), and the story itself twists and turns to keep it moving. One of the best parts about the movie was the music, which was a mix of traditional folk songs and some original works, including a song by Sting.

The House of Sand and Fog is a truly emotional drama that exceeds expectations with its amazing acting. Ben Kingsley plays a man named Behrani, a Colonel in the Iranian army who immigrates to America with his wife and son in order to escape persecution in his country. He wants to make a better life for his family, so he saves money and buys the house from which Kathy (Jennifer Connelly) was

see Winter, page 11

This Week's Musical Events

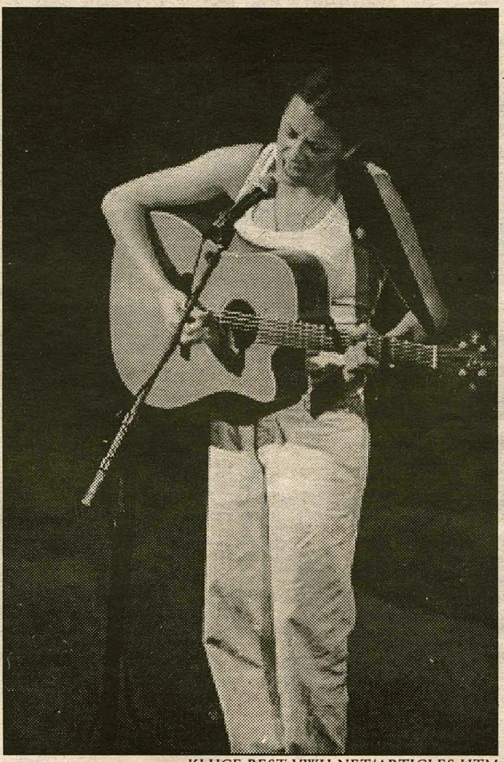
Blak Erb '05 gives you the inside information on the entertainment of the week

The spring semester has started and many students may feel bummed out and depressed due to the beginning of a new set of classes, cold weather, work and all the other stresses of college. Rest assured, though! There is a light at the end of the tunnel for music and performing arts lovers of all kinds. Many upcoming music and dance events will guarantee fun and excitement for all members of the Hamilton community. Among these events is a percussive dance collaboration between Footworks and StepAfrika!, a continuation of the Classical Connections Series with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and pianist Jon Nakamatsu, the first IMF concert of the semester featuring Rilo Kiley, and a Campus Activities Board Acoustic Coffeehouse with Melissa Ferrick and Brian Webb.

Hamilton College Performing Arts will start off the semester with dance collaboration called *SoleMates* on Saturday, January 24, at 8pm in Wellin Hall. But you can read about that elsewhere in the A&E section.

The fun doesn't stop there, however. Hamilton College Performing Arts is bringing the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) and guest pianist Jon Nakamatsu to play for the Hamilton community on Friday, January 30, at 7pm in Wellin Hall. The able baton of Christopher Seaman will conduct the RPO. Scheduled pieces for the concert are: Hector Berlioz, *Le Corsaire Overture*, Frédéric Chopin, *Concerto No. 2 in F minor for Piano and Orchestra*, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, *A London Symphony* (Symphony No. 2). The RPO was founded in 1922 by George Eastman and has become a highly regarded American orchestra. They present a broad range of challenging and interesting music, enhancing the reputation of the Rochester area and generally entertaining and educating audiences across the United States. Ticket prices for this event will be $15 for adults, $10 for children and $5 for students.

If dance collaborations or classical music doesn't float your boat, don't despair! The Independent Music Fund (IMF) is presenting the acoustic tour of Rilo Kiley along with touring partners Tilly and the Wall and Jake Bellows on Saturday, January 24, at 9pm in the Annex of the Beinecke Student Activities Village. This concert is the first of many IMF scheduled events for the Spring Semester. Rilo Kiley, an indie pop on Saddle Creek records, presents a catchy and fun sound that appeals to both indie rock elitists and pop fans. The two members of Rilo Kiley, Jenny Lewis and Blake Sennet, while now pursuing the highly elusive career of a musician, were once child-acting stars. Blake Sennet was known as Pinsky on Nickelodeon's *Salute Your Shorts*, and Jenny Lewis was in numerous Hollywood films, including *Troop Beverly Hills* and *The Wizard*. Rilo Kiley's opening acts, Tilly and the Wall and Jake Bellows, will also provide different and unique blends of pop that will prove that pop music can be accomplished and "independent". This concert will be free for all Hamilton students and ticket prices will be $7 for off-campus concertgoers.



KLUCE.BEST.VWH.NET/ARTICLES.HTM

See Melissa Ferrick and Brian Webb perform at CAB's first Acoustic Coffeehouse next Thursday at 8p.m in the Barn.

On another note, straight-up acoustic guitar fans will be attracted to the Campus Activities Board's (CAB) first Acoustic Coffeehouse of the Spring Semester, featuring Melissa Ferrick and Brian Webb on Thursday, January 29, at 8pm in the Filius Events Barn. Ferrick is a straight up singer-songwriter from Massachusetts. Ferrick delivers an amazingly full and rich sound with just her guitar and voice and bares her soul on the microphone with her passion and love for music and the guitar. Ferrick also owns and runs her own record label, Right On Records. This accomplished artist's opening act, Brian Webb, will bring the double whammy of entertaining, and fun music likened to that of Ben Folds and the Counting Crows as well as hilarious stage banter worthy of recognition on Comedy Central. Besides the great music and entertainment that these musicians will provide, Café Opus will also bring their famous drinks and snacks for everyone that attends the performance. As if this wasn't enough, CAB will also hold raffles for all kinds of cool stuff (crafted goods, artist merchandise, etc.). This Coffeehouse is free for all those that have a Hamilton ID and costs $7 for those that do not.

Clearly, there is a lot to do in the upcoming weeks and this is just a scratching of the surface. Be sure to look out for more performing arts events, IMF concerts and special events and CAB concerts and coffeehouses in the future, along with all of the activities and opportunities presented to the Hamilton community by other student groups and departments. As they say, let the good times roll!

Whit Rothe's Top Ten Movies of 2003

WWW.IMDB.COM

Christopher Guest's latest mockumentary is hilariously funny and surprisingly poignant.

Whit is here to give you his picks for the best ten movies of 2003. Will his picks match up with the Academy Awards when the ceremony airs in February? Only time will tell.

1. The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King

Well, considering it is the best movie ever made -- is that reason enough? I have never been so terrified, exhilarated, and cried so much at a movie -- simply glorious!

2. American Splendor

The most original movie of the year. It seamlessly blends narrative style and documentary with amazing results. Harvey and Joyce make for such an interesting dynamic to watch. Everyone should see this movie.

3. Kill Bill: Volume One

Tarantino came back this year with this visually stunning jaw dropper. It was unfortunately chopped in half by the execs at Miramax, but is still a masterpiece. Great choreography, music, and characters make this one to check out.

4. ***Finding Nemo***

Pixar continues to out -do itself on every picture it releases. Nemo's animation was breathtaking, but it is the characters and voice characterizations, such as Ellen Degeneres's Dory, that set it apart.

5. School of Rock

A good comedy is quite hard to come by these days and is usually ignored by most film snobs. *School of Rock* is easily the comedy triumph of the year. The movie stay true to its message of "sticking it to the man" and never cheapen out to sappiness. Jack Black's mesmerizing performance is the cat's pajamas -- the bee's knees.

6. The Last Samurai

Although *Lord of the Rings* took the top prize for its battle sequences, *The Last Samurai* was still quite awesome. Plus any movie with ninjas easily deserves a place in the top ten. Ninjas are sweet, and by sweet, I mean really frickin' sweet.

7. Lost in Translation

One of my favorite romantic comedies ever. Although I still think *Groundhog Day* was his best work to date, Bill Murray is the man. A very realistic narrative and not sappy.

8. Old School

It's *Old School*, so instead of singing its praises for the millionth time, I will just put some great quotes:

Frank: You know I was thinking we could go back home... have some dinner and pop in the Sisqo CD... no? Weren't thinking that? Ok.

Frank: I had an awesome time!

Beanie: I know that you had an awesome time. I think the entire town knows you had an awesome time.

9. A Mighty Wind

Christopher Guest's movies never get the respect they deserve, but this is hilarious, but also heartfelt. The songs are damn good too.

10. Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl

As if regular pirates weren't enough, they are cursed zombie pirates. Now that is just awesome. Just thinking about sweet zombie pirates makes me want to rank this one higher.

10.5. X2

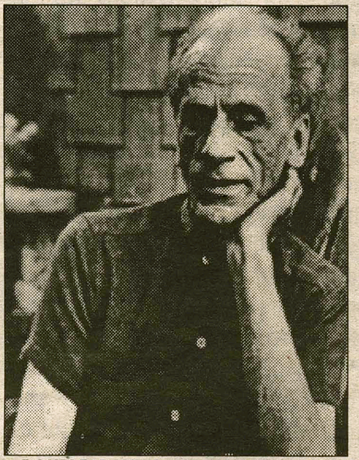
Couldn't neglect to mention this one. The best comic book movie I have seen in adapting its characters to the medium. The action sequences were crazy good and the story moved better than the first one. Plus Wolverine and his claws are just plain awesome.

The Art of Joseph Cornell

Alex Taylor '07 discusses the exhibit at the Richard L. Feigen gallery in New York

To mark the centenary of the birth of Joseph Cornell (1903-72), the Richard L. Feigen gallery in New York has recently organized a first rate exhibition of the artist's shadowbox constructions and collages. And while the nineteen works on display are proof enough of Cornell's substantial aesthetic achievements, the curators at the Feigen gallery manage to undermine the greatest of the American surrealists by appointing the largely threadbare work of Ray Johnson (1927-95) as Cornell's "aesthetic soul mate".

When looking at the artwork of Cornell and Johnson one is struck by the extent to which the 24 years between their births have imbued the former with a powerful sense of the Victorian Gothic while tainting the latter with lifeless camp. For the recurring motifs that appear through out Cornell's art are the stuff of the Edwardian attic and junk bin: tintypes of ballerina and 19th century French postcards. And in so much as these objects increasingly recess from the cultural consciousness, they reemerge as extraordinarily archaic and evocative totems. The recessive cut figure of Cornell's *Defense d'Afficher Object* goes places, in objective space and cultural time, that astound. And if Cornell's gentle fetish for his found objects - what he called their 'Max Ernst white magic' - occasionally merge with the artist's sentimental conception of innocence, the formal rigor of



DOUBLEARCHIVE.COM/ARTAFTERDEATH

"The Richard L. Feigen gallery in New York has recently organized a first rate exhibition of" Joseph Cornell's (above) work.

Cornell's work pull him back. These are not, as some would claim , images of childhood. For even the smallest youth is more familiar with despair than Cornell's imperturbable *Untitled (Medici Princess)*.

Having never gone to Europe, Cornell's work is hermetically and uniquely American. For although his *Object (Abeilles)*, with its black cut out of French cavaliere set against a blue photograph of the Italian landscape, alternates between geographical delineation of Poussain and the domestic tromp l'oeil of Magritte, there is something intensely American from Cornell's borrowing of folk art forms and his asexual, Puritanical beliefs manifested in the corners of white box frames suggesting the New England meeting house and country clapboard fence.

In their efforts to relate Joseph Cornell to Roy Johnson, the Feigen gallery misjudges the sensibilities of both artists. Like Rousseau, an artist whose so-called 'primitivism' was entirely overshadowed by Cezanne and the cubists, Cornell's aesthetic isolation within the context of the New York School allowed for a decidedly eccentric artistic accomplishment. In comparison, Johnson's mature work appears to be influenced by the ascendancy of the Pop Art movement, and a certain ironic fascination with the notion of celebrity not unlike Warhol permeates through out his work. Of course, the movie stars that Johnson's incants within his work are only thirty years old and reside in a sort of cultural limbo halfway between kitsch and artifact. Instead of Garbo, he gives us Candy Bergen.

Winter Movie Review

*from **Winter**, page 9*

wrongfully evicted. Kathy, a recovering alcoholic down on her luck teams up with Lester (Ron Eldard), a police officer, in order to try and convince Behrani to give up the house. But conflict ensues as he refuses to compromise his own life to make up for a mistake the government made. Directed by Vadim Perelman, who also co-wrote the screenplay, the film was adapted from the acclaimed novel by Andre Dubus III. Perelman, a new director, certainly makes a name for himself with this film, as the tension he creates with a lack of dialogue and strong sense of culture is nearly flawless. While Connelly seems to be perpetually crying in her movies, she pulls this on off with grace, at least matching her performance in *A Beautiful Mind*. Kingsley should win an Oscar for putting his whole heart into the portrayal of his character, and his performance will certainly bring you to tears. In addition, Shohreh Aghdashloo, who plays Behrani's wife, Nadi, does an exceptional job, as does Jonathan Ahdout, who plays their son, Esmail. While this movie is extremely serious and may not be for everyone, it is intensely moving and does everything it sets out to accomplish.

Big Fish is a movie that provides a little bit of everything, and it's even good for the whole family. The story is about a father named Edward Bloom (Albert Finney) who has spent his life telling and retelling his adventures of his life. His son, Will (Billy Crudup) is less than enthusiastic about what he takes to be the fabricated lies his father tells. The film goes through the events of the past in a magical way. We see the young Edward Bloom, played by Ewan McGregor, battle a big fish, befriend a giant, join the circus, and win over his true love and future wife. Alison Lohman plays the young Sandra Bloom and Jessica Lange plays the adult. The cast is large , including Danny DeVito as the circus director and Steve Buscemi as a poet. Director Tim Burton animates the story with his characteristic imagination and inventiveness. *Big Fish* is another adaptation, based on Daniel Wallace's *Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions*. It's hard to capture the beauty of this movie in words. It is definitely worth seeing in the theater. The acting is heartfelt, especially on the part of Albert Finney, and the ending is especially terrific.

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Pizza	Small	Large
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1 Item	6.75	9.95
2 Items	7.50	10.95
3 Items	7.75	11.95
4 Items	8.50	12.95

Small = 8 pieces Large = 16 pieces

Items
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Slices
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Pizza Slices 1.16 each + tax
Extras 35c each

10 Wings 4.75	
20 Wings 6.75	80 Wings 19.95
30 Wings 8.75	90 Wings 21.95
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Politics dominates national headlines

State of the Union: Bush sparks controversy

by Elizabeth Siegel '04
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

This past Tuesday President George W. Bush addressed the nation in the annual State of the Union Address. While it is clear to the citizens of the United States that much has been accomplished in the Bush White House, the President began his speech by outlining some of the past accreditation the office has earned in the past year.

First and foremost, the President began by addressing the current war on terror. In a strong and confident opening the President stated, "As we gather tonight, our nation is at war, our economy is in recession, and the civilized world faced unprecedented dangers. Yet the state of out Union has never been stronger." The President then went on to list the priorities of the White House in the coming few months before the elections this November. In that, as in past years, President Bush first addressed the security of our nation, making it his number one priority. He announced an increase in the budget for national defense, but not without making it clear that this budget increase will support the three great goals for America, stating, "We will win this war; we'll protect the homeland; and we will revive our economy."

In the outline of the proposed budget, President Bush admitted to spending more than a billion dollars a month in fighting the war on terrorism, as well as including the largest increase in defense spending in two decades. However, the President stated that the new increase in budget funding for the military will account for a more precise and effective war on terror and that no price is too high to pay for the security of this nation. The second priority of the budget is to "do everything possible to protect citizens and strengthen the nation against the ongoing threat of another attack." In this, the President reminded Congress that as of September 11, 2001 we are no longer safe as a nation and that "vigilant action" must be taken abroad in order to guarantee security. Within the realm of national security, well beyond government funding for the military, the President announced that the proposed budget will double funding for a "sustained strategy of homeland security, focused on four areas: bioterrorism, emergency response, airport and border security, and improved intelligence to develop vaccines to fight anthrax and other deadly diseases." While few democrats seemed to disagree with the presidents policies on the war in terror, there were other areas that might have disheartened those on the opposition.

The third priority of the proposed budget is to grant Americans economic security, which President Bush believes will be accomplished by having a small and short-term deficit, "so long as Congress restrains spending and acts in a responsible manner." This part of the State of the Union focused on what is being called Jobs for the 21st Century. As a new initiative in the Bush administration, the President announced that an astounding $500 million will go to a series of measures to better prepare workers for future jobs. The President also includes an initiative to expand support for community colleges, inclusive of a $250 million proposal to help fund a relationship between community colleges and employers in high-demand job sectors. As has already been made clear, the President believes that education s a key point to success for reviving the nation's economy and therefore he announced $220 million to improve in both math education and reading in the Nation's middle and high schools. Also, the President also announced a proposal for an expansion in the Nation's Advanced Placement program in urban schools, encouraging professionals to substitute teach such courses.

While education and homeland security seem to be points that both party lines agree upon, the area of health care is not. The President announced his plans for making health care more affordable. He announced more funding for Tax-Free Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) which allow workers to pay for medical expenses incurred by individual's spouses, or dependents. As is evident HAS's will be part of the Medicare prescription drug bill, already passed last month. Most importantly the President called on Congress to pass Association Health Plans that would enable small businesses to provide health coverage to employees. While these issues have all been debated before, with primaries less than a week away the President clearly has his eye upon the election next November. The health insurance bill the President Bush is proposing will cost approximately $89 billion over the next 10 years, which is on top of the $395 billion Medicare prescription drug bill.

The controversy began with Senator Edward M. Kennedy's (D-Ma) firing back at the President in a speech following the State of the Union that proposed a plan for universal health care coverage, relying on employers to provide health care for their employees and if a company were unable to do so the government would then rely on programs such as Medicaid. President Bush's approach to health care is being criticized by most Democrats. Presidential hopeful Senator John Kerry (D-Ma) endorsed the Universal Plan, stating that President Bush's approach "only benefits big drug companies and HMOs." While the debate on health care in the US continues to heat up, the Presidential race in on and as is evident from the Democratic response to President Bush's speech, the President has secured the nation, but according to Democrats, has lost sight of the lesser issues in National security, such as health care.

Iowa makes impact

by Jon Kuhl '06
FEATURES EDITOR

Monday night proved to be one of the most exciting political events in years, reenergizing some Presidentiaàl campaigns and ending others. Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who has for some time been expected to win the Iowa Caucuses, came in third place with just 18 percent of the vote. Senator John Kerry, who earned 38 percent of the vote, and Senator John Edwards, who received 32 percent of the vote, shocked both political pundits and the candidates themselves with their strong performances.

John Kerry, who had earlier in the race been the perceived frontrunner, ran into several problems over the past few months, leaving many to assume his candidacy would end long before the Democratic Convention. Iowan voters, however, perhaps reconsidering their support for Dean, found Kerry's decorated Vietnam experience appealing.

The Iowa Caucuses, seen as an enigma to most Americans, is certainly a different kind of voting experience. With 1,993 precinct meetings around the state, voters gather in public buildings, and even private homes to exercise their influence in determining the Democratic nominee.

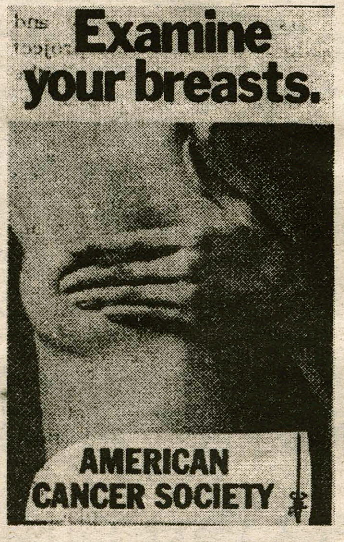
Arriving at 6:30 p.m., the process begins with a reading of candidate letters, followed by voters being asked to contribute money to the Iowa Democratic party. Dividing the room by candidate preferences, Iowans move to their candidate's area of the room. Voters whose candidates do not receive 15 percent of the votes in the room, are then released from their candidate, allowing the voters to move to another candidate's camp. Not only is there nothing secretive about the voting, people literally lobby their friends and neighbors to vote for their candidate. After voters have settled on their final selections, the precinct's delegates are distributed based on the votes, and results are phoned into the state party.

Although some question the significance of the Iowa Caucuses, the results from last Monday night certainly seem to be having an impact on this coming Tuesday's New Hampshire Primary. According to the New York Times, "In dozens of interviews over the past two days, many New Hampshire voters who were formerly undecided or supporting Dr. Dean or other candidates say they have decided to support Senator Kerry. His strong showing in Iowa, they say, is leading them to believe that he could very well be the strongest opponent against President Bush in November."

Howard Dean, while suffering from his poor showing in Iowa, is also dealing with the backlash over the fiery "victory speech" that he gave last Monday night. Yelling the names of states to a crowd of supporters and ending with an impassioned squeal, the Governor is battling the perception that he is too angry as a candidate. Shedding some humor on the subject (along with all the late night shows), Dean remarked, "I still have not recovered my voice from my screeching in Iowa."

Although it certainly isn't clear who will win in New Hampshire, few now argue that Iowans have not significantly influenced the primary season. In the end, many democrats don't care who the nominee is, they just want a chance to vote Bush out of office.

While you're doing this...



Why not think about writing for Features?

If you're interested, please contact Jon Kuhl (jkuhl@hamilton.edu) or Sarah Gould (sgould@hamilton.edu)

Coming back to the Hill: Richard M. Skinner

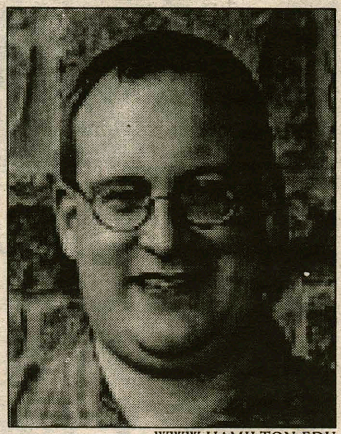
by Sarah M. Gould '05
FEATURES EDITOR

In the fourteen years that have passed since he graduated from Hamilton, it would be a gross understatement to say that Visiting Instructor of Government Richard M. Skinner has suffered from any professional boredom. Since his days on the Hill, Skinner has weaved his career path through some of the most prestigious political and academic halls in the country, finally ending up back in the place where he spent four very memorable years.

As an undergraduate at Hamilton, Skinner majored in Government and minored in History, learning from many of the same professors with whom he is now teaching. In a time when Features was the most widely read section of the Spectator, Skinner was at the helm,and not only editedthe section but wrote about national politics for News. He remembers trudging down to the basement of Minor Theatre to broadcast his WHCL talk show during his senior year. Associated Press news briefs would spill out of the printer and Skinner, using a self-described "unbearably cheesy" method of delivery, would read news, weather, and sports for several hours. He recalls embellishing the usually dry briefs with announcements like, "The Jets flew past the Redskins today."

Skinner was involved in Student Government and the College Republicans, but remembers his professors and friends as the most significant contributors to the "wonderful time" he had at Hamilton. "I had some really great professors here," he said. Referring to Professor of Government Theodore Eismeier, Skinner said, "To say that I owe him is like saying plants owe the sun."

During his junior year, Skinner spent the fall semester in Washington D.C., interning in



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Visiting Instructor of Government Richard M. Skinner

the Office of the Vice President. Alan Cafruny led the semester and, in Skinner's words, "is an intellectually inspiring guy and had a significant effect on me."

When he came back in the spring, he enrolled in Professor of Government Carol Drogus's Introduction to International Relations in order to fulfill a requirement for his major. In a class filled with freshmen who continually asked "Why can't we all just get along?", Skinner would dispense the wisdom he had gained from first-hand experience. What resulted was Professor Drogus often taking him aside and asking him to be nicer to the freshmen. The knowledge and insight Skinner had then was to be only a fraction of what he would gain in the years after his graduation.

After graduation, Skinner worked as a writer/researcher for the Bush-Quayle campaign and as a writer for The Hotline in Falls Church, Virginia. He received his M.A. in American Politics from the University of Virginia in 1997, which eventually led to his hiring as an Adjunct Instructor at Randolph-Macon College and at the Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics at UVA. From September of 2000 until July of 2002, Skinner worked as a research analyst at the Campaign Finance Institute in Washington D.C. During the 2002-2003 academic year, Skinner was a Visiting Lecturer at SUNY-Geneseo in the Department of Political Science.

When asked what brought him back to the Hill, Skinner jokingly replied, "I came back because I wanted a job and they were hiring!" More seriously, he was thrilled to see the listing for the position at Hamilton. Skinner recalls that just prior to his hiring, "Professor Cafruny called me at home and I initially addressed him on the phone as Dr. Cafruny. He said, 'No, it's Alan now.'" After his interview, Skinner says he felt like he was coming home.

Skinner is now teaching American Political Process and Interest Groups at Hamilton while pursuing his Ph.D. "The overall academic quality of the student body is higher," he said. He continued by pointing out that he finds students here "brighter, more articulate, and more culturally aware" than when he was a student on the Hill. The friends he made while a student here have stayed with him to this day. "Hamilton alumni are incredibly close-knit. It really is a tight group," he said.

6th Annual

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Project

Saturday, January 24, 2004

10:30am - 5:30pm

Sign up by noon on Friday in Beinecke

THIS WEEK IN HAMILTON HISTORY

14 YEARS AGO
January 23, 1992

'91 alumnus charged in Buttrick Christmas burglary

The Hamilton security department and area law enforcement officials may have moved closer to solving the mystery surrounding August's $10,000 heist of the Buttrick Hall vault, after Elliot Eddie '91 was arrested and charged with burglarizing early Christmas.

Hamilton Director of Security John Brucker said that Eddie used a method of operation (MO) "identical" to the one used in the summer burglary.

Brucker said Eddie entered through the same door, climbed over the same partition in the business office and broke into the same desk as the perpetrator who burgled Buttrick over the summer.

Nothing was stolen from Buttrick in the second incident. Brucker said that gloves were used in the second incident and were believed to have been worn in the first.

Eddie is currently being detained at the Oneida County Jail for lack of bail. He is being held over for a Grand Jury, which will decide if there is enough evidence to hand down an indictment, according to Oneida County Investigator Lisi. Eddie was unavailable for comment, according to an Oneida County deputy.

3 YEARS AGO
January 22, 2001

McEwen fails annual health inspection

An inspection by the New York State Department of Health on December 11, 2000 uncovered one critical violation and four minor violations in Hamilton College's McEwen Dining Hall.

Two inspectors from the health department conducted their yearly unannounced inspection in anticipation of the December 31 expiration of the 2000 certification. Hamilton's other dining facilities, including Commons Dining Hall and the Howard Diner, passed inspection with no violations noted.

McEwen passed the inspection but received a rating of :unsatisfactory" until a reinspection can take place.

Inspectors found two pots of previously cooked sauce in a cooler at a temperature above the appropriate temperature zone, as dictated by the health code.

Workers immediately corrected this critical violation by discarding the 3-gallon pot of marinara sauce and 7-gallon pot of shrimp gumbo.

28 YEARS AGO
January

The 'Bugs' in Our Trees

Dutch Elm disease represents such a stupefying twist. It has evaded man's best scientific and technological efforts and has spread to such epidemic proportions that it now threatens to eradicate the American Elm from the face of the globe, along with its dependent ecological subsystems.

In our own college community, it ravaged the largest and most luxuriant shade trees and brought about the removal of some of the oldest trees to witness the development of Hamilton College. One by one the College Elms were condemned by the horticulturist.

The infection usually begins in the crotch of twigs, as this is where the beetles tend to deposit their eggs in small pockets, called egg galleries.

The last hope of saving the Elm is the Elm itself. Although, if it were possible to produce a breed of super-elm that was resistant to the pathogen then the spread of the disease could be halted.

The loss of the trees will be a gnawing absense that reminds us how much we discover, how much less we understand, and how pitifully little we truly conquer.

Science & Technology

Scientists find evidence of snow on red planet

Weather gotcha down? Leaving the planet won't cure winter blues!

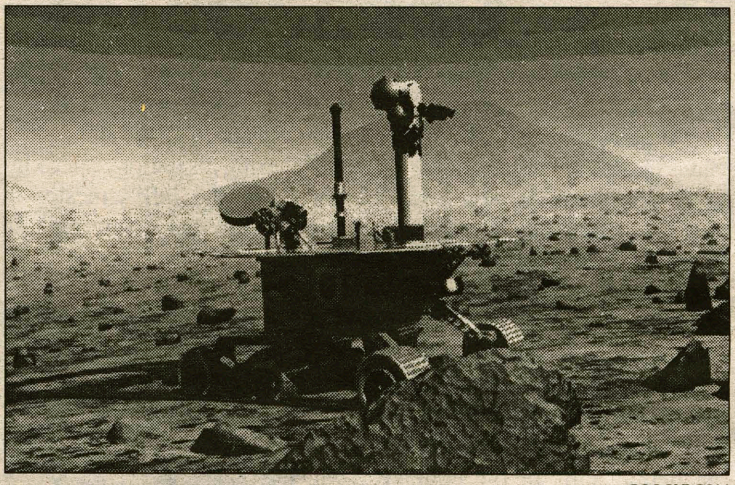
by Jonathan Rees '06
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Mars is a crater dented, desolate and deserted planet. Yet, is it possible that life existed, or currently exists there? Since 1965, sophisticated orbiters have been sending data and pictures of this red planet's surface and atmosphere. Each new piece of data in the Mars puzzle increases discord in the scientific community.

Currently, a theory justifying the existence of melt water (liquid water melted from snow or ice) that flowed in the recent past has scientists hot and bothered over this cold planet. It is known that water exists as glaciers at the poles of Mars, similar to the poles of earth. Phil Christensen, a geologist at Arizona State University, has observed recent gullies, which are depressions, along the slopes of many dust and sand laden craters at high latitudes. He, like many of his colleagues, believes that these gullies were not the result of dusty avalanches. Furthermore, he noted the presence of "pasted-on stuff" in the gullies from thermal imaging provided by the Thermal Emission Imaging System (THEMIS) orbiter. This pasted-on stuff is actually dirty snow, Christensen contends, and the heating of dust and sand particulates within the snow by solar energy causes the snow to melt from the inside out. As the snow melts, liquid water trickles down the slopes and forms significant gullies.

How did the snow and ice migrate from the poles in the first place? Recall that earth has undergone several ice ages in its 4.6 billion years of existence, the most recent of which ended about twelve thousand years ago. This phenomenon was due to a change in the earth's tilt, also known as obliquity. A change of as little as one degree can greatly alter the earth's climate and cause ice ages. Mars, however, has been greatly influenced by other planets' gravity and has tilted between fifteen and thirty-five degrees about fifty times in the past five million years. Computer models of Mars, which take into account atmosphere, climate, obliquity, and pressure, demonstrate that up to ten meters of ice and snow may currently exist in Christensen's gullies.

But enough about gullies and liquid water. What is the purpose of NASA's "Spirit" rover and the imminent landing of the "Opportunity" rover (coming January 24, 2004) on Mars? Spirit landed in the Gusev crater, which was once a basin filled with water. A great deal of data can be extracted from this ancient lakebed. Opportunity is scheduled to land in Terra Meridiani, which shows traces of the mineral hematite which on earth, is only found in the presence of water. So, these two rovers will investigate sites where water might have influenced the surface geology perhaps billions of years ago.



GOOGLE.COM

The Opportunity rover is due to explore Mars once again on January 24, 2004.

NASA loses contact with Mars rover

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— NASA's Spirit rover has stopped transmitting data from Mars in an ominous turn that baffled engineers and sent them scrambling desperately Thursday to figure out what brought the mission to a potentially calamitous halt.

NASA received its last significant data from the unmanned Spirit early Wednesday, its 19th day on the surface of Mars. Since then, the six-wheeled vehicle has sent either random, meaningless radio noise or simple beeps acknowledging it has received commands from Earth. "We now know we have had a very serious anomaly on the vehicle," project manager Pete Theisinger said at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Engineers struggled to diagnose what was wrong with the rover. Among the possible causes: a corruption of its software or computer memory. If the software is awry, NASA can fix it from Earth by beaming patches across more than 100 million miles of space. But if the problem lies with the rover's hardware, the situation would be far more grave - perhaps beyond repair. "Yes, something could break, something certainly could fail. That's a concern we have - that's quite a serious event," Theisinger said.

Spirit is one-half of an $820 million mission. Its twin, Opportunity, is expected to land on Mars late Saturday. The twin rovers are supposed to examine the Red Planet's dry rocks and soil for evidence that it was once wetter and more hospitable to life. Until Wednesday, Spirit had functioned almost flawlessly and NASA scientists and engineers had been jubilant.

Cushioned by its air bags, the rover made a bull's-eye landing on Mars, surviving what was by far the most dangerous part of the mission - the descent through the atmosphere at 12,000 mph. Then on Jan. 15, in another nail-biting moment for NASA, the rover safely rolled down a ramp onto Mars' ruddy soil without becoming snagged. It has snapped thousands of pictures, including breathtaking panoramic views and microscopic images of the martian soil. It also carried out preliminary work analyzing the minerals and elements that make up its surroundings.

Steven Squyres, of Cornell University, the mission's main scientist, cautioned that communications problems are common on spacecraft. "While it is cause for concern, it is not cause for alarm," he said. NASA last heard from Spirit as it prepared to continue its work examining its first rock, just a few yards from where it landed.

Health and Fitness

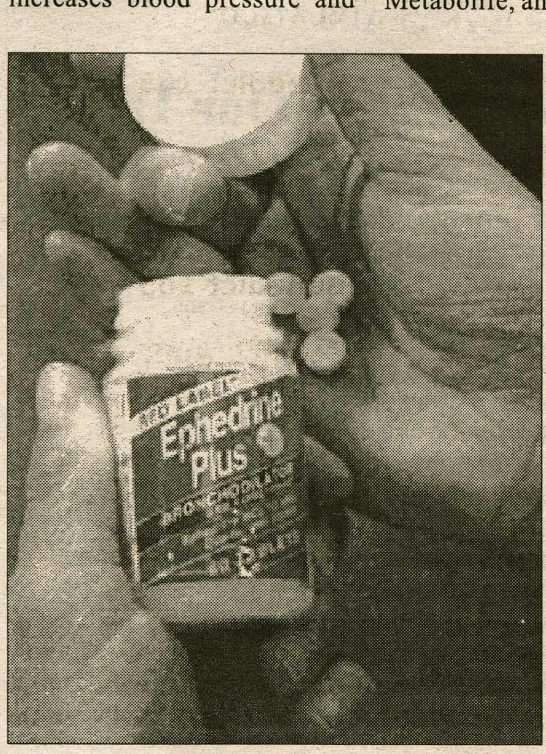
FDA to protect naive dieters

by Jennifer Ruch '06
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

The FDA has finally made its decision to prohibit the sale of ephedra containing dietary supplements because they pose a "significant and unreasonable risk to human health." Ephedra is an herbal remedy advertised to promote weight loss and to boost energy. In simplest terms, ephedra has the same effect on the body as speed. However, the consequences of the drug by far out number its benefits. The weight loss experienced by ephedra users is only short term, while at the same time the drug increases blood pressure and stress on a person's body. These prominent side effects are linked to serious health issues, such as strokes and heart ailments. Over eight hundred injuries and fifty deaths have been reported to the FDA by users and their doctors.

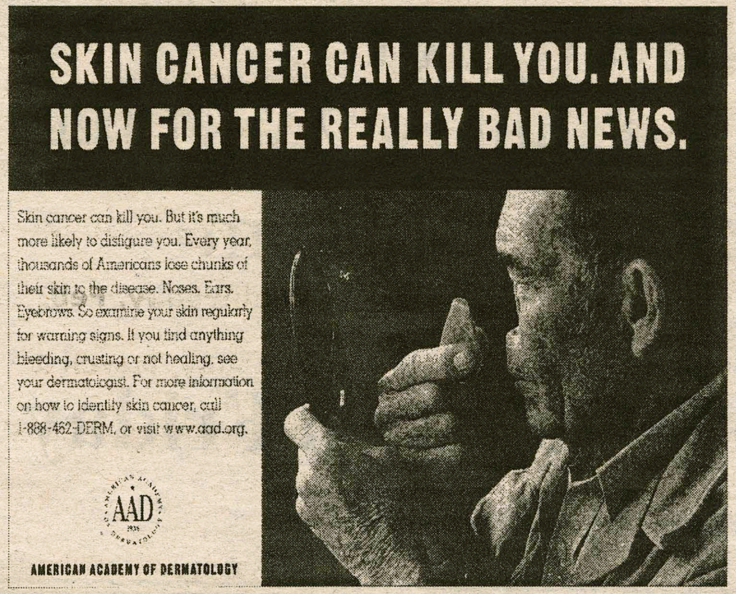
Many of the over-the-counter weight-loss medicines are simply appetite suppressants. Although ephedra has been shown to be effective in the short term, it leads to long term addiction and eventually health complications. Besides ephedra, there are over a dozen other herbal weight-loss remedies, such as Dexatrime, Metabolife, and Stacker 2. Unfortunately, many users are probably unaware that manufacturers of herbal dietary supplements can sell their drugs without scientific testing, making them unable to provide adequate warning labels. Also, many manufacturers issue "false claims" about the effectiveness of their products. The use of herbal weight-loss pills is highly discouraged by medical professionals because of their dangerous consequences and lack of effectiveness.

To save money, lose weight safely and keep the weight off, doctors recommend adjusting eating habits and increasing exercise. There is no fast or easy solution to weight-loss, so the first step is to learn how to eat healthy. Keep in mind the basic components of a healthy diet, including protein, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and water. By following the recommended serving sizes on the food pyramid, you are more apt to lose weight and feel healthier. Combined with cardiovascular exercise and weight lifting, you will not only lose weight, but also prevent such health problems as strokes and heart attacks that result from most herbal weight-loss supplements.



GOOGLE.COM

Many Americans turn to drugs for a quick way to lose weight.



Science Movie Review: *Fat Man and Little Boy* is great fiction but poor history

by Stephanie Lynn Higgins '04
SCIENCE EDITOR

*Fat Man and Little Boy (*1989) is not a film about a sumo wrestler and his tiny sidekick, as the title would suggest. Rather, it is a historical drama about the lives of the scientists who participated in the Manhattan Project- the code name for the U.S. effort to produce an atomic bomb during World War II. But don't let the name fool you-the project didn't take place on Fifth Avenue. The bomb was actually created in a top-secret town thrown together overnight by the U.S. government: Los Alamos, New Mexico.

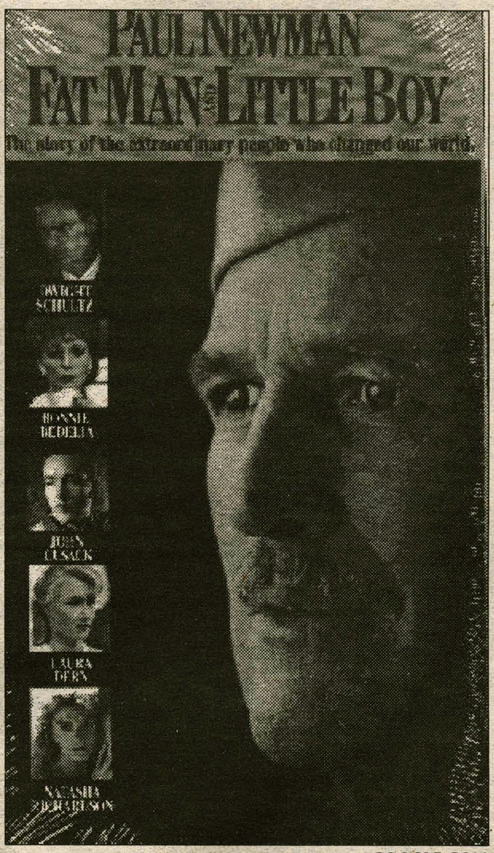
Paul Newman stars as the hardened and cynical General Leslie Groves, the soldier responsible for pushing and manipulating the brilliant J. Robert Oppenheimer (played by Dwight Schultz) to lead an odd assembly of intellectuals who are developing an atomic bomb. The scientists spend four years in a frantic intellectual race to build the first weapon of this kind. General Groves convinces the team that Germany is also building a doomsday weapon of mass destruction; however, the informed viewer quickly recognizes the dramatic irony: Germany was not in fact a threat and surrendered before the bomb was finished. In fact, neither bomb was ever dropped on Germany. "Little Boy" was detonated over the Japanese city of Hiroshima and "Fat Man" over the city of Nagasaki.

I enjoyed this film immensely because it gave me a glimpse into the personal lives of those involved in the Manhattan Project, including lively cocktail parties, earnest discussions, and one exciting love affair between Oppenheimer and his left-wing, security-risk mistress. I was instantly inspired to learn more about what actually happened at Los Alamos. However, what I found was a huge disappointment.

Shortly after watching the film, I learned that the most likable and interesting character in the movie, Michael Merriman, (played by John Cusack) didn't actually exist and was cleverly used as a narrative tool. This, of course, upset me greatly. Why not use a real scientist as a narrator to teach the audience at least something that is true? The movie has other flaws. While being very informative and painting an accurate timeline of historical events, it leaves out the emotional panic plaguing the scientists who created the ball of terror that would be released on humanity.

Finally, the film ends awkwardly and prematurely. Instead of offering a climax as the bomb explodes, we see it reflected in the goggles of one of the scientists and the credits roll. We are left without any knowledge of how the scientists' lives were affected. In fact, several scientists went crazy from the guilt that plagued them when they saw the repercussions of their creation.

Not to completely bash the film, it is worth seeing, if only to inspire you to learn more about this exciting time. We can consider it a work of fiction based on fact. However you may wish to start with *The Day After Trinity* (1980), a documentary that includes actual government footage from Los Alamos as well as interviews, both past and present, with many of the men who worked on the bomb. This film includes more action, suspense, and real facts. If you are interested in learning more about the Manhattan Project, a great site to explore is: http://www.me.utexas.edu/~uer/manhattan/.



GOOGLE.COM

***Fat Man and Little Boy* is entertaining and inspiring.**

If you've read a great science book or have seen an exciting flick, you can write next week's review! e-mail us at shiggins or jruch.

The Career Center's

SPRING 2004 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

To schedule an appointment or to ask a question, call us at x4346!

Monday – Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm (closed from noon till 1) and evenings by appointment.

Please check the Career Center Web site (**www.hamilton.edu/college/career**) for the most current schedule

Preparing Materials for ECCD NY	**Monday, Feb. 2nd**	**7:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
Careers in Finance	**Monday, Feb. 2nd**	**7:30 pm**	**Benedict 105**
Preparing Materials for ECCD NY	**Tuesday, Feb. 3rd**	**7:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
The Importance of Internships**	**Wednesday, Feb. 4th**	**12:00 pm**	**KJ 222**
Senior Job Search: Visual & Performing Arts	**Thursday, Feb. 5th**	**7:30 pm**	**Benedict 105**
Interviewing Skills	**Thursday, Feb. 12th**	**7:30 pm**	**Science Aud.**
Cover Letter Writing for Beginners	**Wednesday, Feb. 18th**	**4:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
The Importance of Internships**	**Tuesday, Feb. 24th**	**7:30 pm**	**Benedict 105**
Resume Writing for Beginners	**Wednesday, Feb. 25th**	**7:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
Resume Writing for Beginners	**Tuesday, March 2nd**	**4:30 pm**	**ELS 100**
Interviewing Skills	**Wednesday, March 3rd**	**7:30 pm**	**Red Pit**
Pre-Law Info. Session	***[date/ time/ place TBD]***		

****please sign up on eRecruiting because there will be PIZZA at this workshop!**

SKIN CANCER CAN KILL YOU. AND NOW FOR THE REALLY BAD NEWS.

Skin cancer can kill you. But it's much more likely to disfigure you. Every year, thousands of Americans lose chunks of their skin to the disease. Noses. Ears. Eyebrows. So examine your skin regularly for warning signs. If you find anything bleeding, crusting or not healing, see your dermatologist. For more information on how to identify skin cancer, call 1-888-462-DERM, or visit www.aad.org.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I'd like to respond to Andrew DeCastro's complaint in his 12/12 piece that "...Isserman's negative emotions towards private societies clouded his logical judgment because the basis of his entire argument was from a memo that was constructed over eight years ago."

The document in question was not a memo but the Hamilton College 1995 Residential Life Report. Isserman's reasoning was simple and compelling: after much research and reflection, the 1995 Res Life Report unambiguously states that residential fraternities will no longer exist at Hamilton College, in any form, because, as the Report declares in its opening pages, they are in "physical and social disrepair...heavy partying and heavy alcohol abuse have extended into the academic week....the "concept of 'work hard — play hard' has become increasingly skewed toward the 'play hard' end of the equation", with the result that "**private society social events are impinging directly on the central mission of the institution.**" (The bold is mine, the quote is from the Report).

Isserman maintains that the very reasons that led the College to end residential fraternities can and should be applied fully to the private societies themselves: houses or no houses, private society social events continue to impinge directly on the central mission of the college.

The experiment of closing houses and keeping private societies has failed: the bad effects on campus social and intellectual life continue, and those effects continue to stand in the way of Hamilton's taking its rightful place among the very best liberal arts colleges. Isserman and I — and many others — share your dismay that though it's been eight years, the College has made almost no progress towards putting into practice the #1 resolution from the Report:

Hamilton is a residential college. All students will live in College housing, and all residential spaces will be available to all students.

Sincerely,

Katheryn Doran
Associate Professor, Philosophy

THE SPECTATOR'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A FORUM FOR THE ENTIRE HAMILTON COMMNUNITY TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE CAMPUS, LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. PIECES PUBLISHED IN THE SECT ION EXPRESS THE OPINION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINIONS OF *THE SPECTATOR*, ITS EDITORS, OR THE MEDIA BOARD. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME FROM ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI/AE, FACULTY, FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE AND HAMILTON COMMUNITY MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, T*HE SPECTATOR* HAS THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR SUBMISSION:

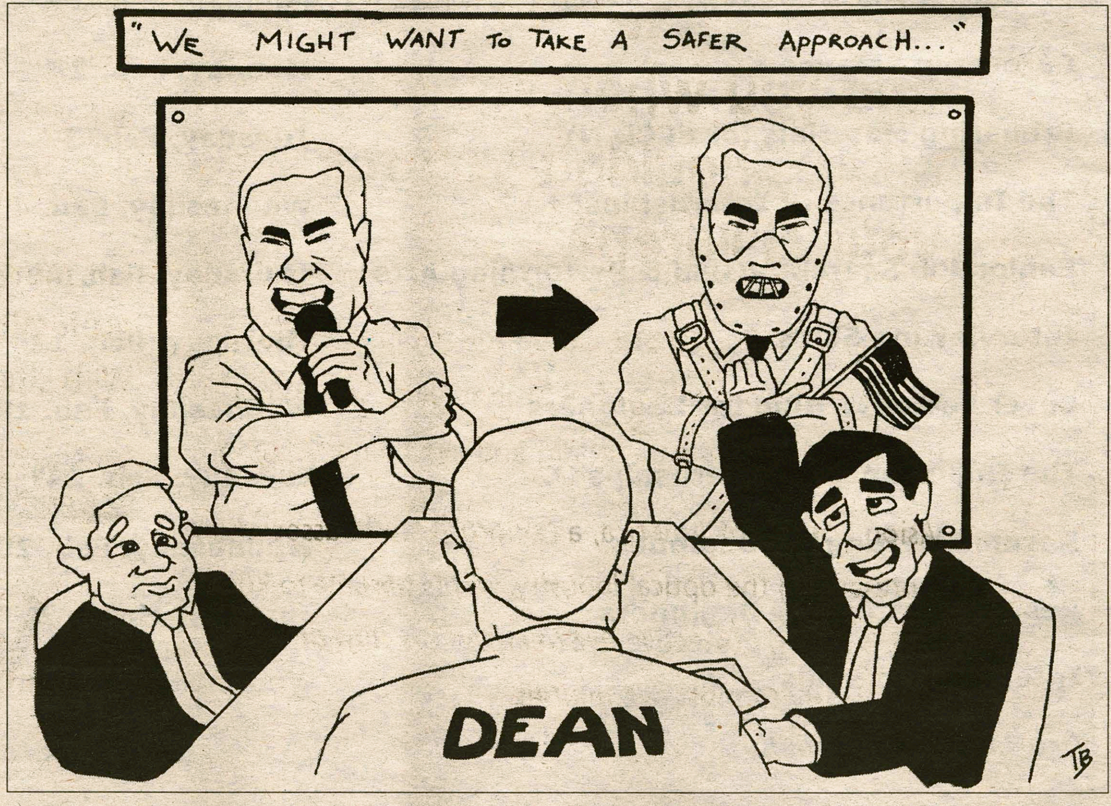
1. Submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before publication. Submissions can be sent by email to spec@hamilton.edu or to the individual I&I editors (adavis@hamilton.edu or wrothe@hamilton.edu). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

Is Bush for real?

from ***Union**, page 8*

Howard Dean has said, Bush is truly a "Credit Card President"), we will continue to alienate ourselves from the rest of the world on the international stage, and the rich will continue to get rich while the poor will continue to be poor. Please, for the love of our great country, vote Democratic this November.

*Quotations are taken from transcripts of the speech posted on www.c-span.org.



Drawing Criticism: by Tom Booth '06

Play it Safe

"It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye..."

That's what your parents told you when you were a kid. Shouldn't you tell your children?

Each year thousands of children suffer unnecessary sports-related eye injuries — bruised eyes, scraped or torn corneas, detached retinas and eye hemorrhaging.

Vision Council of America, a nonprofit trade association representing the optical industry, wants parents to know that wearing protective eyewear can prevent or lessen the severity of most eye injuries.

Talk to your eyecare professional about protecting your child's eyes. Safety standards do exist for many sports and your eyecare professional will be able to help you find the eyewear appropriate for your child's activities.

For more information, talk to your eyecare professional or visit the consumer area of VCA's Web site, www.visionsite.org.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD'S EYESIGHT

VCA Vision Council of America

Check Yearly. See Clearly.

Men's basketball wins Hamilton Invitational

by Michael Proia '05
SPORTS WRITER

The men's basketball team has struggled through injuries and sickness the past few weeks, and the lack of depth has started to catch up to the team, which has lost two of its last three games. The Continentals rolled through the Hamilton Invitational Tournament during break, beating Worcester State, 88-58, and Washington and Jefferson, 93-69. Hamilton added a league win on the road against Hartwick 83-62, but followed that up with their first conference loss of the season at Rensselaer, 79-71. The next day Hamilton traveled to Vassar and won 64-50, and last Tuesday, the defending National Champions, the Williams Ephs beat Hamilton 77-63.

In the first game of the Hamilton Invitational against Worcester State, Mike Evans '05 led the Continentals with 18 points, hitting 6 of his 10 three pointers. Four other Hamilton players ended the game in double figures, including C.J. Cantil '04 with 17, Tsakane Ngobeni '07 and Greg Leone '04 with 12 each, and Brandon Holtslag '06 with 10. Hamilton's defense held Worcester State to 31.5% shooting for the game and forced 16 turnovers.

The championship game proved to be a much closer contest at halftime with Hamilton leading 48-45. The Continentals shot 71% in the first half, but Washington and Jefferson shot 53% to stay in the game.

Hamilton picked up the defense in the second half, holding Washington and Jefferson to 30% from the field and only 1-4 from three-point range. The Continentals continued their torrid shooting, hitting 15-31 field goals and 13-17 from the free throw line. Hamilton cruised to a 93-69 victory, led by Joe Smith '04's 25 points and 10 rebounds, and TK's 12 points and 11 rebounds. Leone added 19 points off the bench and Cantil put together another solid game with 13 points and 8 rebounds. Cantil won Tournament MVP honors and Smith and TK were both named to the All-Tournament Team.

Hamilton improved its record to 8-1 with a road win over Hartwick on January 13. Down 20-15 nine minutes into the game, the Continentals outscored the Hawks 27-9 over the final eleven minutes of the half to take a 42-29 lead into halftime. They continued that run over the first 15 minutes of the second half, outscoring Hartwick 41-18 building their lead to 83-47, and cruise to victory. Tim Welchons '06 led all scorers with 20 points. Evans and Smith each added 15. However, Hartwick did out rebound Hamilton 47-36 for the game, and rebounding remains a concern for the Hamilton coaching staff.

The Continentals were without the services of Cantil for their game at Rensselaer and had to start a three-guard line-up for the first time this season. Unfortunately, the team did not get in enough practice time with three guards on the court at once, and they had trouble spacing themselves out and finding room to shoot. Hamilton shot 15 percent from the field in the first half, hitting only four field goals, and trailed 35-21 at the break.

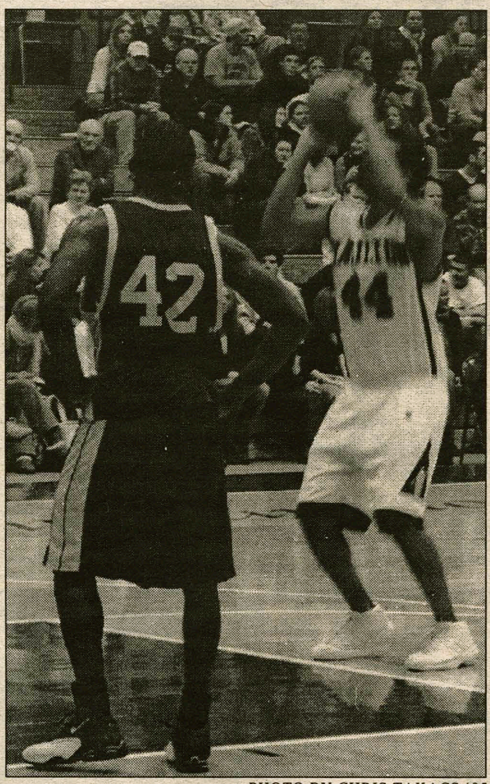


PHOTO BY CHRIS TAKACS '05

T.K. Ngobeni (44) shoots from the charity stripe.

Leone and TK picked up the scoring for Hamilton in the second half as the Continentals clawed their way back into the game, but the halftime hole was too deep and Hamilton fell short of a great comeback. Leone finished with 29 points and TK had 11 to lead Hamilton. Rensselaer out rebounded Hamilton 52-37 for the game, including 21 offensive rebounds, most of which turned into second chance points.

On January 17, Hamilton traveled to Vassar and won by fourteen points. As in the previous game, Hamilton struggled offensively in the first half, shooting 32 percent, but the defense held up and Hamilton led by seven at halftime. In the second half, the Continentals heated up and shot 44 percent and doubled their lead. The Continental defense was the story of the game, holding Vassar to 36 percent shooting and forcing 21 turnovers. Smith led Hamilton with 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Evans added 18 points off the bench.

Going into last Tuesday's game with Williams, Hamilton was expecting its biggest challenge of the season. The defending national champs entered the game 12-1, and they had the big men to give Hamilton a lot of trouble on the backboards. Hamilton got off to a quick start in the game, but Williams kept it close and with 7:30 to play in the first half, Hamilton led 25-24. Williams then picked up its defensive intensity and went on a 12-4 run to take a 36-29 lead before Mike Evans hit a three at the buzzer to send it to the half at 36-32.

Coach Murphy commented on the difference in depth. "We got tired," said Murphy, "and they had the depth that helped them wear us down. They are a solid team, and with sicknesses right now our depth is down. We were a tired team by the end of the game, and we were missing shots we don't miss if we have our legs."

Williams continued the defensive pressure in the second half, forcing Hamilton to commit numerous turnovers and shoot at a dismal 32 percent. Williams also capitalized on its depth and forced Hamilton to play at a fast pace. By the end of the game, Hamilton's overworked frontcourt players were running on fumes and just trying to finish the game. Williams built the four point lead as high as twenty-one before Hamilton closed it back to fourteen in the final minutes. The Ephs did a great job of protecting the basketball throughout the game turning it over only eight times, compared to fifteen by the Continentals.

Hamilton will look to get back to its winning ways with two league games at home this weekend. Hamilton will take on Union Friday night at 8, and Skidmore on Saturday at 4. The Continentals know that this weekend's game will be challenging and that if they want to make the NCAA Tournament, they have to win the league.

"Both games will be tough as hell," said coach Murphy. "Union is a much bigger team than we are, and Skidmore is a much improved team and very dangerous. We have to win both games if we want to win the league."

The team hopes that the home crowd advantage will provide them with the energy they need, and coach Murphy would love to see Margaret Bundy Scott Field House packed for both games.

"We should get a pretty good crowd and hopefully they can give us a lift in these big games."

Women's hockey battles through tough schedule

by Mike Osborne '05
SPORTS EDITOR

While the rest of the student body was home relaxing and enjoying their holidays, the women's hockey team was in the thick of their schedule. The team was in the toughest stretch of their season, and had no time to sit back and relax like the rest of us. The Lady Conts took their bumps and bruises during this stretch, but they are still battling and playing pretty good hockey. During the break, the Lady Conts played R.I.T., Wesleyan, Elmira, and Middlebury. Elmira and Middlebury are ranked 3rd and 4th respectively in the latest USCHO Women's Hockey Poll.

The Lady Conts started the break on Tuesday, January 6, 2004, with a game at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The two teams battled to a 3-all tie, with Hamilton scoring the tying goal with just under two minutes remaining in the game. Pacing the offense were Eden Self '04 and Zoe Baldwin '06, who each had one goal and one assist. Baldwin's goal tied the game and came 18:13 into the third period.

On Friday and Saturday, January 9-10, 2004, the Lady Continentals were in Middletown, CT, facing the Cardinals of Wesleyan. On Friday, the Continentals earned a 6-3 victory. Eden Self picked up a hat-trick in the victory, while Zoe Baldwin, Kristina Carroll '07, and Lindsay Bartz '07 picked up the other Hamilton goals. Caitlin Connelly '07 picked up third victory of the year by making 25 saves in the Hamilton net.

On Saturday, the offense of Friday night did not carry over. The Continentals were shut out 2-0.

Last week, the Lady Conts faced two of the toughest opponents on their schedule. Elmira College, last year's national champions and this year's 3rd best team in the country, came to the Sage on Wednesday, January 14. The Lady Conts fought hard, but in the end Elmira wore them down and showed their superiority as they came out with a hard-earned 3-1 victory. Zoe Baldwin scored Hamilton's goal with an assist going to Julie Haney '07.

This past weekend the 4th best team in the country came to the Hill in the form of Middlebury College. The Panthers proved to be far superior as they beat the Lady Conts 8-2 on Saturday and 9-1 on Sunday. Eden Self and Zoe Baldwin picked up Hamilton's goals on Saturday. On Sunday, Self scored the lone Hamilton goal.

Coach Shannon Bryant singled out the play of Self throughout the break. Self proved herself as an offensive leader of the Lady Conts, and Coach Bryant remarked that, "Eden has been playing outstanding. She is really starting to move her feet well and pull away from players. This along with her vision and playmaking ability has really stepped up her game."

Coach Bryant also offered her overall assessment of the team. She states, "we are not playing as well as we can play. We are improving in the defensive zone, but still need to improve more. Right now, we are having trouble with our transition game. We are working hard, just not executing the way we have to against these high end teams."

After this past weekend's games, the Lady Conts have an overall record of 4 wins, 6 losses, and 1 tie. The Lady Conts sit in 5th place in the NESCAC with a 4-4 conference record. The team is not happy where it sits right now, as one of their goals at the beginning of the season was to be in the top four. The team must start playing better and find a way to beat the top teams in the league.

The schedule for the Lady Conts does not get any easier as the Ephs of Williams College invade the Hill this weekend. Williams enters the weekend ranked as the number 9 team in the country.

Coach Bryant is looking for a high intensity weekend, which should bring some great hockey to the Hill. In all, the Lady Continentals know that they are not playing their best hockey as of late, and must improve their game in all zones of the ice to continue as they strive to be one of the top teams in the NESCAC.

Swim team enjoys successful trip to Hawaii

by Andrew Dassori '07
SPORTS WRITER

Over winter break, Hamilton's Swim team flew out to Hawaii for week that combined training, a rare open-water meet, and an immersion into the Hawaiian island culture. Filled with hard-work and competition, this trip was by no means your typical Hawaiian vacation, but at the outset, it was enjoyable for all and furthered the team's development into the cohesive unit it is now.

The trip began with a flight to Chicago, where they connected to Los Angeles, and then eventually landed in Kona on the Big Island. The team arrived at the King Kamehameha hotel, where they stayed for eight days.

The day after arriving, the team began to train rigorously outdoors in the sun-soaked community pool of Kona. According to coach Davis, "training outdoors was great." This must have been a nice change of pace, as the temperature in Clinton, NY dropped far below zero during the eighty-five degree week of sunshine the team had in Hawaii. Still, their training was no walk in the park.

According to captain Kevin Thompson '04, the trip is "where we do most of our yardage, set our aerobic base, and then build on it up until the NESCAC championships." He added, "it was a hard trip training-wise, but being in Hawaii made it manageable." Part of what made it manageable was the events the team partook in while they weren't in the pool.

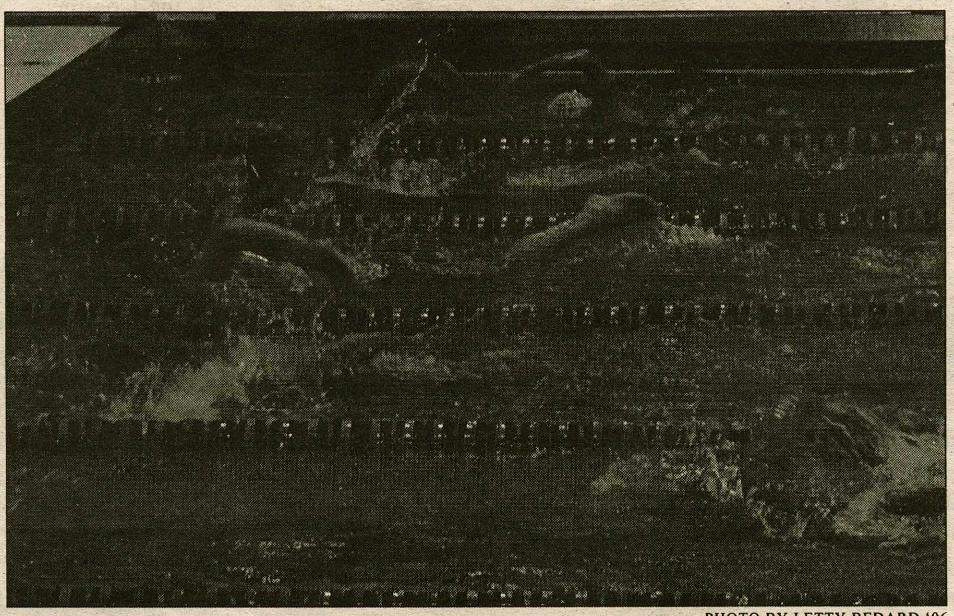


PHOTO BY LETTY BEDARD '06

The swim team is back to frigid Clinton after enjoying the warm weather in Hawaii. Before the NESCAC championships, the team faces crosstown rival Colgate and NESCAC powerhouse Amherst.

The team shifted from swimming to leisure at various points during their stay. Some highlights included a visit to the Kunataki coffee plantation, snorkeling at Captain Cook's Cove, and even parasailing for some of the adventurous swimmers. This is where they "took in some culture," said coach Davis.

"The plantation was a lot of fun. We saw all of the coffee plants, ate pizza, and met Mr. Kunataki," captain Sarah McDermott '04 explained.

The team had been invited personally by Mr. Kunataki, the namesake of the ironman event that takes place on the course where the team swam against Peugot Sound. The Kunataki Open uses the same, 2.4 mile course that Hamilton's swimmers used.

Their meet against Peugot Sound was a "great experience for the swimmers," as they would "never have the chance to swim against this team normally," said Davis following his first career tie. The men swimmers beat Peugot Sound's "pretty solid D3 team," while the women tied. Remarkably, on the open-water course, Ben Delia '05, Mark Hodges '07, Nichole Knapp '05, and Ryan Conner '05 all finished in less than one hour, nearly matching the 55 minute time of this year's Kunataki open ironman champion.

Overall, the trip was very rewarding and enjoyable. McDermott felt that it was "definitely the best training trip I've been on. Everyone came together as a team." There were "No major setbacks," according to Thompson, and "what the training trip did for people was give them confidence and helped them realize their ability to perform when fatigued." This should be useful as the team approaches the NESCAC championships.

Still, before they can get there, the team faces one of their biggest challenges, as they will swim against cross-town rival Colgate, a Division 1 program, and Amherst, one of the top two teams in the NESCAC. Thompson put it well when he said, "this weekend is our biggest challenge in terms of dual meets. Colgate is coming in on Friday, and Amherst will be here Saturday. Having them back to back will be a good test for us." And we will see how they fair in this back to back showdown. After their trip to Hawaii, at least we know they will be prepared when the champtionships arrive.

Indoor track tops Union and SUNY New Paltz

Harrison '05, Butterhof '05, Orbaker '07 all qualify for NYSTF Championships

by Matt Bradley '07
SPORTS WRITER

The Hamilton College Indoor Track and Field Team placed first in its recent tri-meet against Union College and SUNY New Paltz. On January 17 in Hamilton's Margaret Bundy Scott Field house, both the men's and women's squads emerged victorious thanks to solid performances in numerous events.

The men's team earned an impressive 193 points, easily defeating Union and New Paltz who received 118 and 87 points respectively. The male harriers recorded notable finishes in the sprinting, mid-distance, and long distance categories.

Co-captain Olamide Harrison '05 qualified himself for the New York State Collegiate Track and Field Championships with his 23.04 second time and first place finish in the 200-meter dash. In the 500-meter event, Jesse Gaylord '06 earned a first place finish as well with his time of 1:13.67. In addition, Chris Dunn '05 had an outstanding performance in the 800-meter event, blowing away the competition with a time of 2:03.40. The men's team also earned a first place finish in the 4x200-meter relay, clocking in at 1:36.65.

Hamilton had some key victories in the long-distance events as well. The 4x400-meter relay team beat its competitors with a very commendable time of 3:45.33. In addition, Rob Taylor '07 placed first in the 3,000-meter, a very strong performance for the talented freshman.

Hamilton was also well-represented in the meet's field events. Steve Butterhof '05 hurled the shot-put 14.08 meters, earning him a first place finish and a bid in the NYSCT Championships. Donnell Hutson '06 also contributed to the team's success by earning first place points in the triple jump.

Bundy Scott Field House proved to be lucky for the women's team as well. The squad earned 162 total points, enough for a solid first place finish. SUNY New Paltz placed second with 142, and Union finished with 86 points to lock in third. Earning first place in many different events proved to be an effective means of securing the victory for the women.

Jenny Orbaker '07 and Allison Nichols '06 were Hamilton's most successful athletes, each coming away with two first place finishes. Orbaker won the high jump with a NYSTF Championship qualifying jump of 1.52 meters and jumped to a first place finish in the triple jump with a distance of 9.78 meters. Nichols' first place finishes were in the weight throw and shot put events, recording distances of 9.32 and 9.80 meters respectively.

In the track events, Gwen Downs '06 earned first place points with her time of 8.15 seconds in the 55-meter dash. In addition, Sarah Downey '07 emerged victorious with her time of 2:42.67 in the 800-meter event.

It is Head Coach Brett Hull's thirteenth year with Hamilton College. He and his wife Ellen coach the athletes, along with numerous assistant coaches. All the team members possess a large amount of respect for Hull and attribute much of their success to his coaching style. "Coach Hull is a great and talented coach," comments Craig Cammarata '05. "He has an incredible ability to teach and motivate, especially with his group of sprinters."

With Hull's leadership and the squad's talented composition, the future will certainly yield positive results for the men's and women's squads. After a successful showing at the January 17 meet, the team is optimistic about the meets in the upcoming weeks. More team members are expected to qualify for the NYSCTC meet in late February. The Continentals will host Nazareth College on January 25 at 11am. Expect many more strong performances from a variety of athletes in all events.

This weekend in sports

Saturday - January 24, 2004
Men's Swimming - HOME vs. Amherst (2:00PM)
Women's Swimming - HOME vs. Amherst (2:00PM)
Women's Basketball - HOME vs. Skidmore (2:00PM)
Women's Ice Hockey - AWAY vs. Williams (3:00PM)
Men's Basketball - HOME vs. Skidmore (4:00PM)
Men's Ice Hockey - AWAY vs. SUNY Plattsburgh (7:00PM)

Sunday - January 25, 2004
Men's Indoor Track - HOME vs. Nazareth (11:00AM)
Women's Indoor Track - HOME vs. Nazareth (11:00AM)

Men's hockey goes 4-1-1 over the holidays

Despite success during break, Hamilton unable to top #9 Oswego

by Andrew DeCastro '05
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's hockey team lost Tuesday night to ninth ranked Oswego. At the start of the game, the Conts had the earlier advantage. By using their team speed and quickness, Hamilton forced Oswego to get two careless boarding penalties in their own zone. Hamilton quickly took advantage from the five-on-three situation. Jeff Vautour '06 used his size and strength to maintain position in front of the net and put home a rebound from Scott Gordon's '04 shot from the point. Less than three minutes later, Mike Hayes's '06 persistence around the net paid dividends, giving the sophomore sensation his fourth goal of the season.

With Hamilton up two goals early in the first period, the making of an upset seemed to be brewing. Shortly after the second goal, however, Hamilton was unable to stay disciplined, subquently resulting in foolish penalties, giving Oswego an opportunity to get back in the game. The Lakers, with a very effective power play unit, scored quickly on goaltender Gabe Tash '05 to cut the Conts lead in half.

From the start of the second period to the end of the game, Hamilton never regained the momentum they had the luxury of having in the first period. Oswego dominated the game at all ends, and forced Hamilton to make foolish passes while disrupting the flow of the game. The Lakers ended up with five answered goals, the final goal being an empty net tally. Head Coach Phil Grady described the team's struggles during the last two periods.

"Simply put, we had major breakdowns in our forcechecking systems. For the first 15 minutes of the game, we executed our systems very well. Once the momentum changed, we found ourselves not staying in our lanes, and allowed Oswego to make cross ice passes, enabling them to break out of the zone with a full head of steam."

To rectify the situation, the Hamiton coaching staff has reemphasized the systems, and is using game film as a tool to make improvements for the upcoming weekend. Once each player fills their respective lane, and commits to the delegated system, Hamilton will be a tough team to beat down the stretch.

Despite the heartbreaking loss to Oswego, The Conts enjoyed success over the holiday break. Over the 4-1-1 clip, Hamilton scored an impressive 30 goals while only allowing sixteen.

"Our objective every game is to limit opponents to twenty one or fewer shots, and two or less goals. Over the break, we did a very good job our maintaining of defensive goals. And from our solid defensive play, we generated great scoring opportunities in the offensive end," remarked Grady.

This weekend the Conts have a tough two game roadtrip against Skidmore and SUNY Plattsburg on Friday and Saturday night, respectively. Skidmore, treating their win against the Conts as if it were the Stanley Cup a year ago, will look to upset Hamilton for the second year in a row. Hamilton will need to keep ECAC offensive player of the week Pat Bigelow in check to be successful.

After Skidmore, Hamilton travels to Plattsburg in a hostile environment that always proves a tough content for the Continentals. Look for Hamilton to tighten up their systems and come back to Clinton on Sunday with two victories under their belt. After the two victories have been attained, the Conts will enjoy a weekend back home at the Sage for two crucial games.

PHOTO BY BOBBY COLE '06

Goalie Gabe Tash protects the Hamilton cage Tuesday night against Oswego.

Women's basketball plays solid ball into the new year

by Paul Kibbe '05
SPORTS WRITER

The women's basketball team finished up 2003 with a record of 2-1, both victories in blowout fashion and their only loss coming against a very strong Williams team. Their competitive play did not slow at all with the New Year, with the team going 5-2 thus far in 2004. The women rang in the New Year by departing for the Bahamas on January 1st for a five-day trip during which they played in a three-team tournament.

Their first game had them matched up against another team form New York, SUNY Plattsburgh. The game was close throughout, with Plattsburgh State taking a 28-22 lead into the half. Hamilton continued to play hard throughout the second half and it was unclear who would eventually win until Jen Munoz '04 made a lay-up with 10 seconds left to put Hamilton up 51-49, the score that would be the final. Munoz finished with 6 points and Jess Gorman had 7 to lead all starters. Anna Jablonski pulled down 10 rebounds for the Continentals. Alicia Giglio and Erin Daugherty came off the bench to contribute in the win. Giglio led all Continentals with 8 points and Daugherty grabbed 7 rebounds in the victory. Hamilton faced Bethany College the following day for the championship. The first half was close and Hamilton's women went into the locker room down just five points at the half. The second half did not go as well for the Continentals; Bethany played strong offensively and defensively and were just too much for the Hamilton women who were outscored 44-27 by Bethany in the second half. When the buzzer sounded, the final score was 80-58 in favor of Bethany. Jen Munoz continued her strong play in the defeat, leading the Continentals in points and rebounds with 15 and 8 respectively. The strong play also earned her a spot on the All-Tournament team. Jess Gorman finished with 9 points, and Holly Erick had 10 off the bench.

The loss in the championship did not have an impact on the team's first game back in the states against local SUNY IT. The SUNY school was not strong enough to compete with the women from Hamilton who outscored SUNY 40-23 in the second half to go on to an easy 74-52 victory. Jess Gorman managed to lead all scorers with 15 points, including three three pointers, in just 10 minutes of play. Tricia Czeski, who was playing in only her third game since returning from a stomach injury, scored 13 points off the bench and Missy Nelson finished with 10 rebounds.

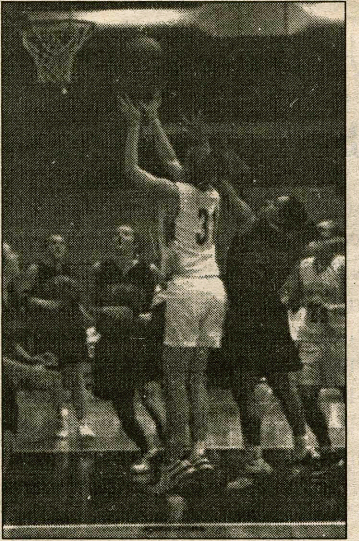


PHOTO BY LETTY BEDARD '06

Jill Regan (31) goes up for two vs. Hartwick.

The women continued their winning ways in their next game in which they took on SUNY Oswego at home. The score was close the whole time, but at the end of regulation, Hamilton pulled out the victory by a three point margin, 66-63. Hamilton got 50 of their 66 points from three of their starters, Holly Erick, Missy Nelson and Jess Gorman. Erick, who was starting in place of Jen Munoz, who broke a bone in her hand during practice earlier in the week, had a career high 24 points, making eight of 13 free throwsand nine rebounds. Missy Nelson finished with a double double, 10 points and 11 boards, and Jess Gorman hit three threes for the second game in a row and finished with 16 points.

Hamilton's next game marked the start of their UCAA season. The team traveled to Troy, NY to take on RPI. Both teams played well in the first half and although Hamilton shot just 29% from the field they went into the half up a point, 32-31. The second half was a different story, RPI came out gunning and Hamilton was unable to shut down the shooters. RPI finished with an easy victory, 81-67. Missy Nelson led the Continentals with 16 points. Hamilton got a very good game out of Kim Beevers who was making her first start of the season and finished with 10 points. Anna Jablonski had 8 points and 8 rebounds in the loss for Hamilton.

The very next day Hamilton traveled to Poughkeepsie, NY to play another UCAA opponent, Vassar College. This time Hamilton was able to pick up a win in league play. Freshmen, Jill Regan, led all Continentals in points and rebounds and recorded her first double double, finishing with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Larissa Hopkins had a season high 9 points to lead all starters and Erin Daugherty came off the bench and hit two threes before finishing with 9 points. The win put the women at 6-3 overall and 1-1 in league play.

The team played their first game of the second semester this past Tuesday night, January 20th, at home against Hartwick College. Although trailing by two, 42-40, at the half, Hamilton came out on fire in the second half, shooting 56% from the field on their way to a 78-73 victory. Jill Regan had another great game finishing with 14 points and 8 rebounds off the bench. Missy Nelson continued her scoring ways dropping 13 points in the win, while fellow starter Larissa Hopkins recorded a new season high with 12 points. Erin Daugherty also played well off the bench in the victory finishing with 8 points and 6 boards. With the win, the Continentals improved to 7-3 on the season.

The women will open their home league season this weekend during which they take on rival Union College, Friday night, January 23rd, and then play Skidmore College on Saturday afternoon. Senior leader Jen Munoz will miss the rest of the season due to her hand injury, which turned out worse than initially expected. Munoz was averaging eight points and five rebounds in the six games she played before the injury and while her loss will definitely have an impact on the team, they proved they could win without her going 3-1 in the four games.